

FULL
68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES



NO
60

Sinister TALES 1½

WAS HE INSANE...OR WAS
IT REALLY A GHOST? SEE
THE FRIGHTENING
ANSWER IN...
**"LANCE LENNING,
LUNATIC!"**

IT...IT CAN'T
BE A MENACING
SPIRIT FROM OUT
OF THE PAST...
BUT IT IS!



LOU
WAHL

UNEXPLAINED VISIONS ... AND THEY HAUNTED HIM! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THEY
 LABELED HIM...

Lance

LENNING, LUNATIC!



ANOTHER
 ONE, MR.
 LENNING?

NO ... THE
 SAME ONE. IT
 NEVER LEAVES ME
 NOW, AND IT ... IT'S
 AGONIZING!

LANCE LENNING WAS AN EFFICIENT
 YOUNG BUSINESSMAN ... SOUND AND
 NORMAL AS BLUEBERRY PIE ...

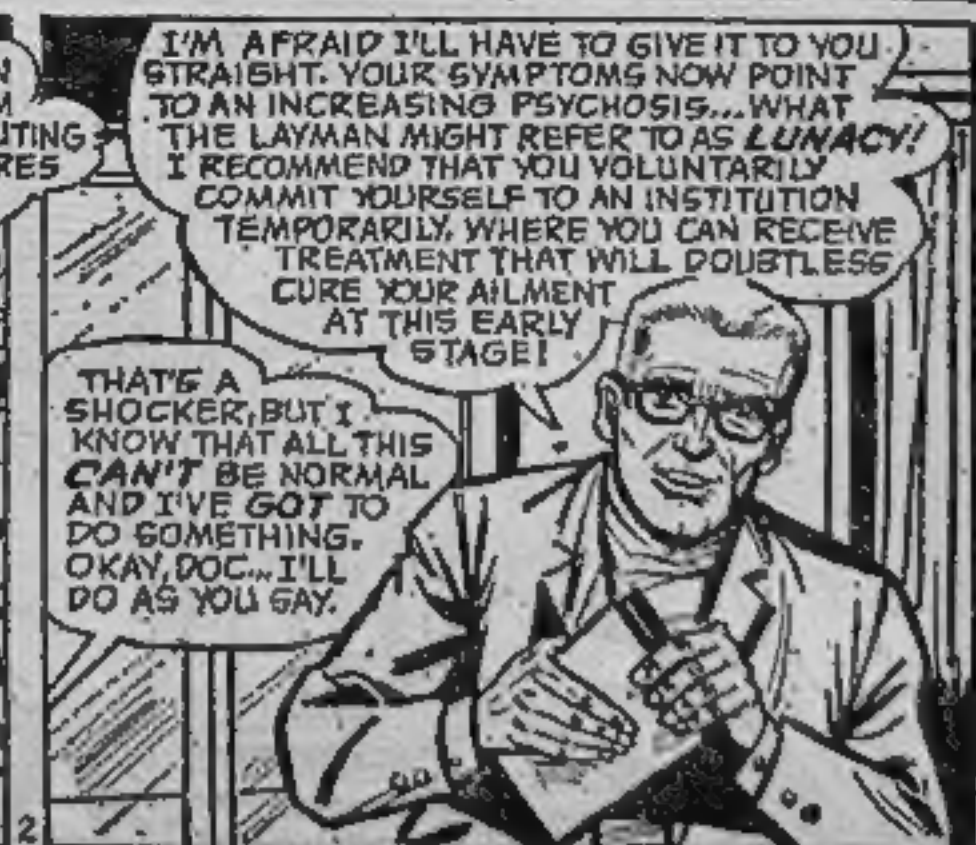
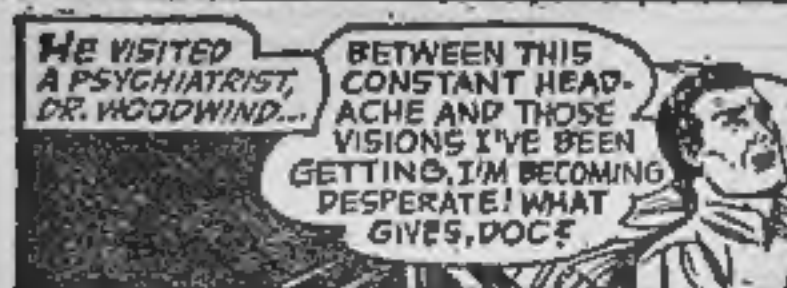
HARD-WORKING, WEALTHY,
 CLEAR-THINKING ...
 HE'S THE IMAGE OF
 WHAT A 100%
 AMERICAN
 SHOULD
 BE!

LANCE LENNING

THAT'S EXACTLY
 WHAT HE WAS ...
 UNTIL THOSE
 UNEXPLAINED
 HEADACHES
 BEGAN ...

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BAD IF IT WAS JUST THE
 HEADACHE. BUT THEN CAME THOSE STRANGE VISIONS ...

WHAT
 THE ...!







THOUGHT YOU'D GET AWAY WITH MURDER AND ROBBERY, DID YOU, LENNING? WELL, YOU'RE GOING BACK TO STAND TRIAL!

THEY...THEY SEEM TO KNOW ME AND CALL ME BY MY OWN NAME... AND THEY'RE WEARING 18TH CENTURY COSTUME! THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION... I'VE GONE BACK IN TIME AND I MUST BE OCCUPYING THE BODY OF ONE OF MY ANCESTORS!

THE TRIAL WAS SWIFT...

WILL THE WITNESS MENORA GREENE TAKE THE STAND?

MENORA GREENE...THE LOVELY GIRL HE HAD SEEN IN HIS VISIONS!

IT... IT'S TRUE THAT I HAD BEEN IN LOVE WITH THE DEFENDANT, LANCE LENNING... EVEN THOUGH I KNEW HE WAS WILD, RECKLESS, DISHONEST. I GUESS I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY... BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

BUT MY GRANDFATHER KNEW WHAT HE WAS AND OPPOSED HIM BITTERLY... THAT'S WHY LENNING HATED HIM. REALIZING THAT HE WASN'T FOR ME, I SENT HIM AWAY...

SHE'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I'D THOUGHT. AND SHE THINKS THAT I'M MY ANCESTOR... A CRIMINAL...

HE RETURNED, SEEKING REVENGE... AND HE SLEW MY GRANDFATHER! AND WHEN I CAUGHT HIM STANDING OVER THE BODY HE EVEN ROBBED ME...

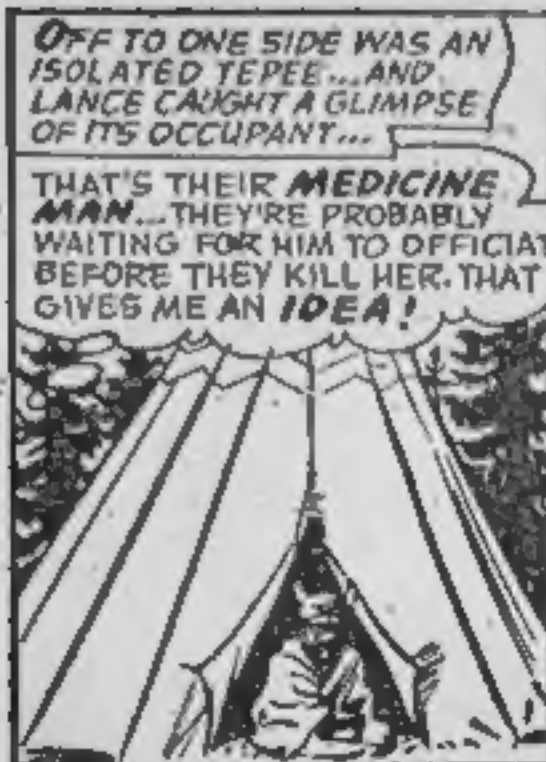
...AND IT IS THE SENTENCE OF THIS COURT THAT FOR YOUR CRIMES, YOU SHALL BE HANGED AT DAWN!

AN HOUR BEFORE THE TIME OF EXECUTION...

HOW... HOW DID I EVER COME TO THIS? INNOCENT... BUT I'VE GOT TO DIE...



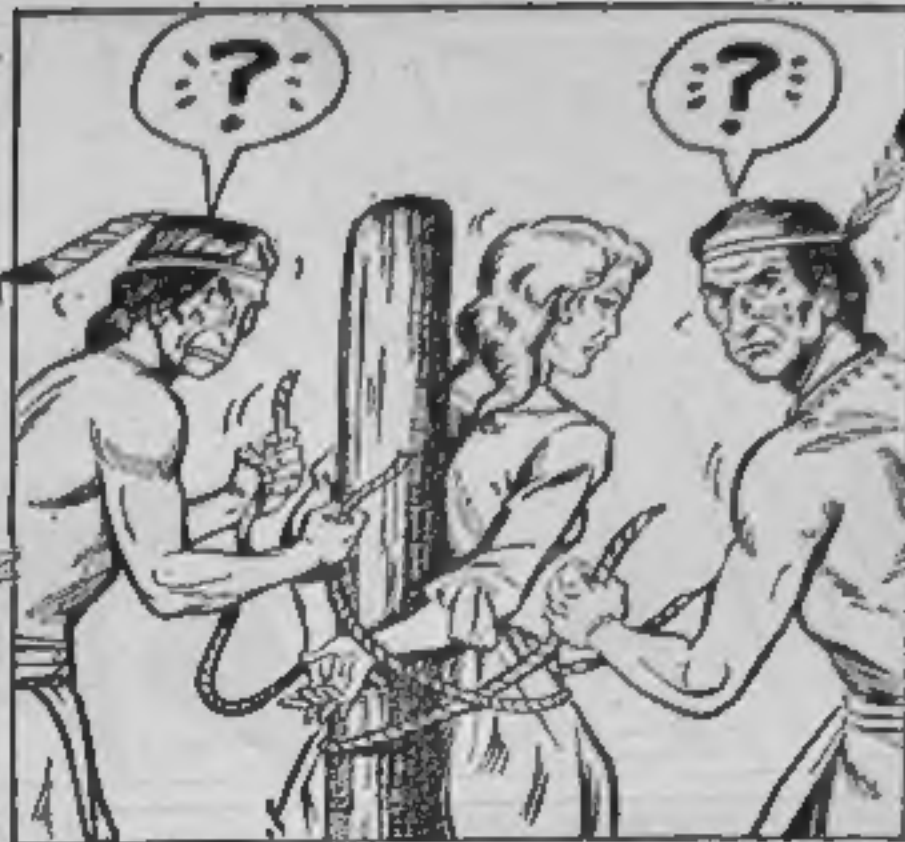




THE MEDICINE MAN SPOKE NOT A WORD... THAT WOULD BE FATAL! INSTEAD, HE MADE HIS WISHES KNOWN WITH GESTURES...



STRANGE... HE WANTS US TO UNTIE HER ROPES!



WHERE... WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME...?

HE LED HER BACK INTO WILD COUNTRY AS FAST AS HE COULD HAUL HER... UNAWARE THAT SEVERAL OF THE INDIANS WERE FOLLOWING AT A DISTANCE...

OH, PLEASE... I'M SO TIRED... WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

HE ACTS... SO STRANGELY... WE MUST SEE WHY.

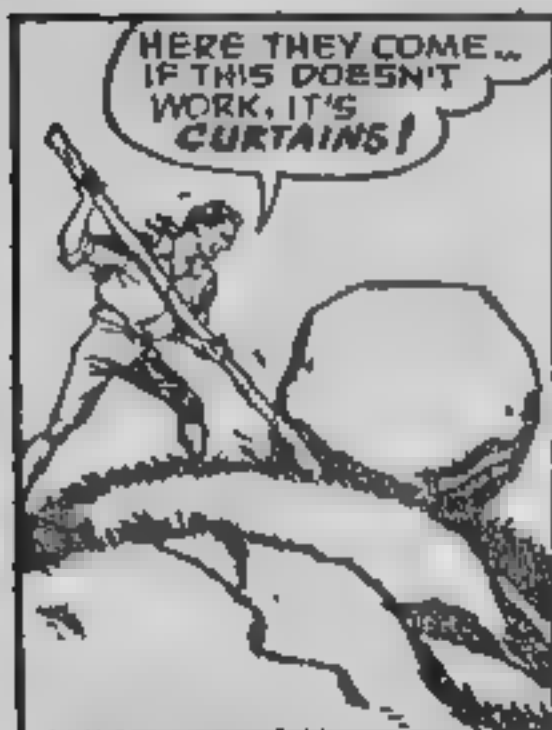


YOU... YOU'RE A WHITE MAN! YOU'RE LANCE LENNING!



IT IS NOT OUR MEDICINE MAN... BUT A PALEFACE!

KILL! KILL!





I'LL NEVER SEE HENORA AGAIN. THE ONLY GIRL I LOVED OR COULD EVER LOVE... AND NOW SHE'S SEPARATED FROM ME BY THE CENTURIES!... OH, WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT, ANYWAY? I **IMAGINED** IT ALL, BECAUSE I'M A RAVING LUNATIC... WHY ELSE WOULD I BE IN THIS BOOBY-HATCH?

W-WAIT A SECOND! I WAS TOO GROGGY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WERE WASHING MY HANDS SO HARD... IT WAS BECAUSE THIS **RED STAIN** WOULDN'T WASH OFF! THE STAIN I PUT ON WHEN I DISGUISED MYSELF AS THE MEDICINE-MAN! I DIDN'T IMAGINE THAT BUSINESS ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE 18TH CENTURY... **IT REALLY HAPPENED!**

PLEASE, YOU MUSTN'T EXCITE YOURSELF. YOU'VE GOT TO LIE QUIETLY AND TRY TO SLEEP.

HENORA! HENORA! GREENE!

UH-UH, I'M **HELENE MARTIN**. BUT IT'S A COINCIDENCE, YOU CALLING ME HENORA GREENE. YOU SEE, I HAD AN ANCESTRESS WHO LIVED ALMOST THREE CENTURIES AGO WHO HAD THAT **VERY NAME!**

NOW YOU JUST REST EASY AND I'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING FOR THAT CONTINUAL HEADACHE YOUR RECORD STATES YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM.

BY GEORGE, YOU KNOW SOMETHING? THE HEADACHE'S GONE... AND I... I FEEL **WONDERFUL!**

WELL, IT WAS SOME TIME BEFORE THEY WOULD RELEASE HIM... YOU SEE, THEY HAD TO BE **SURE** HE WAS RECOVERED AND SANE! AND WHEN DR. WOODWIND, HIS PSYCHIATRIST, DROPPED BY AT HIS OFFICE, JUST TO CHECK ON HIM...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING... SUCH A **VISION!** I GUESS I'M UNDER YOUR SPELL!

GULP! HE... HE MUST HAVE GONE **NUTS** AGAIN... SEEING **VISIONS!**

LANCE LENNING

???

OH, HI, DOC. DOC, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET HENORA... I MEAN, **HELENE**. WE WERE JUST MARRIED!

ONE MOMENT HE WAS NOBODY, AND THEN SUDDENLY, MARTIN WAS...

the MOST DANGEROUS MAN in the WORLD!



AT THE START, MARTIN KNEW NOTHING / THE BOLT FROM THE SKY REARED AND CRACKLED IN HIS EARS, AND DIED...



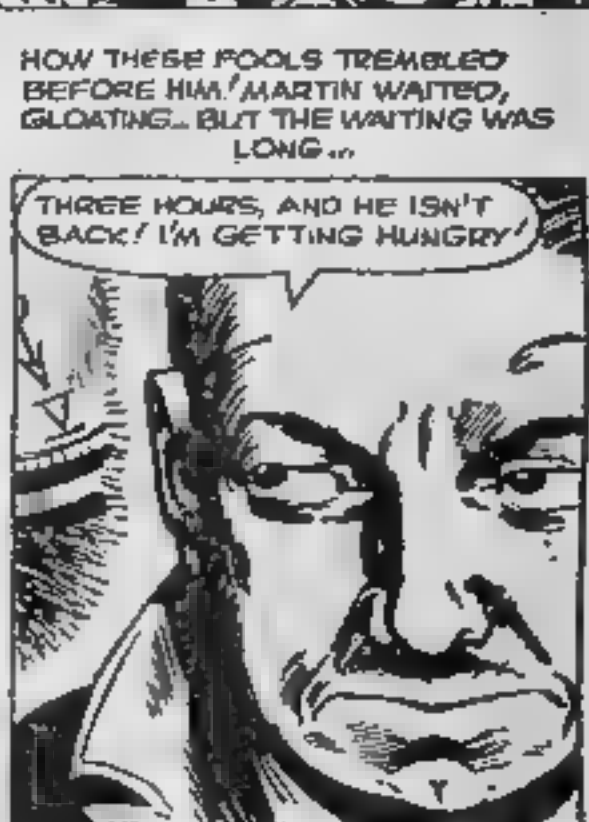


MEN FLED IN EVERY DIRECTION! AND BEHIND THEM CAME A MAN GONE MAD WITH POWER -

IN AN INSTANT, A SMALL, PEACEFUL TOWN WAS A TROUBLED PLACE! OF WHAT USE WERE THE GUNS - OF THE MEN WHO FACED MARTIN LATER?



FOR HOURS, MARTIN STRODE THE TOWN, EXULTING IN HIS POWERS, BUT THERE WAS A METHOD TO HIS MADNESS...



BUT FOR NOW, THAT COULD WAIT! EVEN A MAN OF POWER MUST HAVE FOOD...



MARTIN'S ARROGANCE DROPPED AWAY! BUT THERE WAS STILL A CHANCE FOR HIM...



BUT IT WAS NO USE... MARTIN KNEW HE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK OUT THE DOCTOR WHO COULD GET HIS ENERGY FIELD NEUTRALIZED, BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE...



THE ACME FILM COMPANY WAS HAVING ITS TROUBLE SHOOTING A FILM IN THE CONGO! BUT OF ALL THE DANGERS THE JUNGLE PRESENTED, HE WAS THE WORST! FOR HIS ASTOUNDING VENGEANCE WAS THE KIND YOU COULD ONLY ASSOCIATE WITH A...

WITCH DOCTOR





KAMBO HEAR MUCH TALK IN CAMP!
BIG MONIE STAY JIM REESE & JACK
OF JUNGLE TELL US UN T-5 JIM REESE
GUT DOCTOR, REESE DIE!

THAT'S RIGHT
AND THE ONLY
DOCTOR IN THE
JUNGLE IS OUT
CENTRAL-5
MILES OF JUNGLE IN HIS
HELICOPTER! WE'VE
BEEN SENDING OUT
RADIO IN NA-5 BUT HE
HAIN'T REPLIED YET!



THEN KAMBO IS RIGHT! KAMBO
KAMBO TRY TO MAY BE IT COME
I WE MANY TRY TO KAMBO
GO NO FOR NATIVE DOCTOR!

ARE YOU
CRAZY
KAMBO?
WHAT DOES A
NATIVE DOCTOR
DO?
JIM REESE NEEDS
MEDICAL CARE, NOT
CURED MUMBO-JUMBO!



MAYBE KAMBO ISN'T SO
STUPID. JUNGLE PEOPLE
OFTEN KNOW PRIMITIVE
REMEDIES FOR JUNGLE
ILLNESSES! WHY NOT TRY
HIM? WE'LL GO BACK IF
PRODUCTION IS HELD UP
ANY MORE!

MAYBE
HE IS
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING!
ALL RIGHT,
KAMBO!
LET HIM
SEE REESE!



SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE
STRICKEN MAN'S TENT

WHAT'S HE COOKING?
WHAT'S HE GOING TO
DO?

H'W
KNOW
BEST
H'W
UNDERSTAND
DISEASE YOU
WATCH!



BUT A MOMENT LATER...

H'HELP! ERIC STOP
HIM! THIS STUFF
HE'S FEEDING ME
IS POISON!

THE
SCOUT
DOES!
HE'S
TRYING TO
POISON US!
GET HIM!



I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET THIS PAINTED
FOOL NEAR HWA! HE CAN'T CURE PEOPLE
WITH LIZARDS' TONGUES AND RUBBER
PLANT JUICE! THROW HIM OUT OF CAMP!



B'WANA! Y-YOU CANNOT DO THIS!
WITCH DOCTOR POWERFUL MAN!
HE MAKE TROUBLE FOR YOU!

SHUT UP!
YOU SUPER-
STITIOUS
IDIOT! TELL
HIM TO GET OUT
OF CAMP AND
STAY OUT!



WHAT'S HE SAYING, KAMBO? YOU UNDERSTAND HIS LINGO!

HE IS ANGRY WITH YOU! HE SAYS YOU ARE BAD PEOPLE! YOU WILL BE SORRY YOU THREW HIM OUT OF CAMP! I-I AM LEAVING CAMP! TERRIBLE THINGS WILL HAPPEN HERE!



KAMBO'S RUNNING AWAY! SO ARE SOME OF THE BEARERS! SHALL I STOP THEM, ERIC?

LET 'EM GO! LET'S

JUST HOPE DOCTOR WHITE SHOWS UP TOMORROW! WE'VE LOST A LOT OF TIME AND MONEY ON THIS FILM!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, A WELCOME FIGURE WALKED INTO CAMP...

I GOT YOUR MESSAGE LAST NIGHT! I WOULD'VE BEEN HERE SOONER IF MY HELICOPTER HADN'T BROKEN DOWN! WHERE'S THE PATIENT?

IN THAT TENT! IF YOU CAN CURE REESE, YOU AND ACME'LL BE FRIENDS FOR LIFE, DOC!



THAT AFTERNOON...

I'M FINE

NOW, ERIC! B-BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! I WAS VERY SICK THIS MORNING! THAT WITCH DOCTOR ALMOST FINISHED ME!

YOU'VE GOT TO STICK AROUND, DOC! WE NEED YOU IN CASE ANY-

THING ELSE HAPPENS! WE'VE LOST SO MUCH TIME ALREADY THAT EVERY SECOND COUNTS FROM NOW ON!



BUT THE FOLLOWING DAY, ON LOCATION

A LEOPARD!



MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE LEOPARD IS SHOT...

GET DR. WHITE! I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THAT MEDICINE MAN'S PROPHECY ISN'T COMING TRUE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ERIC! THIS WILL REALLY HOLD UP PRODUCTION!



BUT A FEW HOURS LATER, IN CAMP...

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! TED IS GETTING UP AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM!

NO, ERIC! JUST A LITTLE JUNGLE KNOW-HOW! YOU'RE A WIZARD, DOC!

CLAWED BY A CAT IS A FAMILIAR THING IN THE CONGO!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, ON LOCATION..

ERIC! LOOK AT ME! I MUST'VE TOUCHED SOME POISONED PLANT! MY FACE, MY HANDS ARE RUINED! MY ENTIRE SKIN'S AFFECTED!

IT'S THAT WITCH DOCTOR! HE JINXED US! QUICK, FIND DR. WHITE! MAYBE HE CAN DO SOMETHING! WE CAN'T SHOOT WITHOUT OUR FEMALE LEAD!



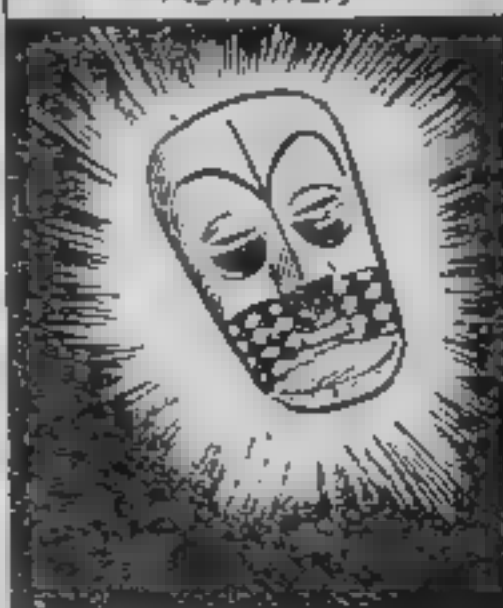
THAT NIGHT, IN THE STARS TENT..

HE DID IT AGAIN! EVERY BLEMISH, EVERY BLOTCH'S GONE! DOCTOR, YOU'RE A GENIUS

NO, ERIC! JUST A SIMPLE KNOWLEDGE OF CONGO PLANT-LIFE! EVERY CONTAGION HAS ITS ANTI-DOTE! YOU CAN CONTINUE FILMING TOMORROW!



BUT THE DUEL WENT ON! THE WITCH DOCTOR'S JINX CLAIMED MORE VICTIMS IN ACCIDENTS! BUT NO HARM WAS CAUSED... BECAUSE DR. WHITE'S CURES WORKED MARACULOUSLY AND INSTANTLY!



FINALLY, THE JINX CLAIMED ERIC HIMSELF!

HELP! I'VE SLIPPED! I'M GOING OVER!

QUICK! GET DR. WHITE! BY THE TIME WE REACH ERIC, HE'LL NEED MEDICAL AID!



BUT AS BEFORE, IN ALL THE OTHER CASES DR. WHITE'S MINISTRATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL!

YOU'RE A WONDER, DOC! THEY TELL ME I WAS A GONER! I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU!

WE ALL DO THAT WITH DOCTOR PUT A WHISKY ON US... BUT YOU'RE A REAL MEDICINE MAN! TO ERASE HIS JINX! LET'S GO BACK TO CAMP AND CELEBRATE!



LATER THAT DAY, AT THE CAMP..

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT'D MAKE ME REAL HAPPY! GETTING BACK AT THE WITCH DOCTOR! I'M NOT A SUPERSTITIOUS GUY BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE ALL OUR TROUBLES CAME FROM HIS MUMBO-JUMBO!

HEY, ERIC! LOOK! A HELICOPTER'S SITTING DOWN!



UPON LANDING, A MAN STEPPED OUT AND EMBOLDENLY ADVANCED ACROSS THE COMPOUND...

I'M DR. WHITE! I GOT YOUR RADIO MESSAGE THE OTHER DAY! SORRY I COULDN'T LEAVE SOONER! THERE WAS A NASTY EPIDEMIC IN THE NATIVE VILLAGE I WAS IN!

O-DR. WHITE! BUT YOU CAN'T BE DR. WHITE! HE'S STANDING THERE! IF NOT FOR HIM, THIS FILM PRODUCTION WOULD BE OUT OF BUSINESS!



I-I DON'T GET IT! IF THIS MAN IS DR. WHITE, WHO'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF US?

SOMEONE YOU DESPOISED AND THREW OUT OF CAMP! I MASKED MYSELF TO PROVE SOMETHING TO YOU! HENCE, THE ACCIDENTS AND CURES!



HIS TALENT VINDICATED, THE IMPOSITOR WALKED AWAY WITH THE CALM AND DIGNITY WHICH BEFITS A... WITCH DOCTOR!



THE END

HAMID DIDN'T HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE DID HE? ARE YOU STILL HUNGRY FOR MORE GORE? WELL FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS DELECTABLE DISH OF BEACONS AND YEGGS. AS WE GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS!

THE SCAVENGER!

A
MYSTERY
TALE
TO SHOCK YOUR
SENSES!

DAWN COMES UP RED AFTER THE STORM AND THE BEACH IS LITTERED WITH WRECKAGE AND THE CORPSES OF THE DEAD, BUT ONE FIGURE MOVES AMONG THEM. THE SCAVENGER...

BY THE LAW OF THE SALVAGE, WHICHEVER WASHES ASHORE ON MY STRETCH OF BEACH, I CAN CLAIM! WELL, DEAD SAILORS HAVE NO NEED FOR FULL POCKETS!

QUITE A WINDFALL! AND IT ALL WASHED UP ON MY BEACH FRONT! BUT WITH MY SYSTEM, WHERE ELSE COULD THE WRECKAGE HAVE LANDED?

AS HE CARRIES THE LOOT BACK TO HIS DRIFTWOOD SHACK, OTHER BEACHCOMBERS APPROACH THE WRECKAGE, LIKE VULTURES CIRCING FOR THE KILL...



A FEW DAYS LATER, AS STORM CLOUDS CLOAK THE SKY AT DUSK, THE SCAVENGER PUSHES HIS BOAT OUT TO SEA...



QUICKLY, HE BRINGS HIS LONG BOAT TO THE REEF GUIDE BEACON!



NOW TO PUT MY BEACONS WHERE THEY'LL DO THE MOST GOOD! WHEN THE FOOL SKIPPERS NAVIGATE BY THEM, COMES THE MORNING AND I'LL HAUL THEIR CARGO AND CORPSES OFF MY BEACH!



LIGHTNING CRISSCROSSES THE BLACK SKY, AS RAIN LASHES THE HEAVY SEA...



ON THE DECK OF THE SHIP, THE CAPTAIN STANDS BY THE WHEEL AND SEARCHES FOR THE CHANNEL MARKERS...



SUDDENLY, A WEATHERBEATEN HAND POINTS TO THE ROCKING LIGHT AHEAD...



TOO LATE, THEY SEE THE FALSE BEACON HAS GUIDED THEM TO A ROCKY DOOM...



AT DAWN, THE SCAVENGER MOVES LIKE A HYENA PICKING HIS WAY AMONG THE CARRION...



I'VE TAKEN MY BEACONS DOWN AND RELIT THE OFFICIAL ONES! NO ONE'S THE WISER AND I'M THE RICHER!

WITH LOAD AFTER LOAD SLUNG OVER HIS SHOULDER, HE STAGGERS BACK TO HIS SHACK IN GLOATING TRIUMPH, AND SUDDENLY...



B...SOMEONE'S COMING!



ANOTHER
WRECK!

AND HE BEAT
US TO IT AGAIN!

BEAT YOU NOTHING!
IT WAS MINE! IT
WASHED UP ON MY
BEACH!



BUT THE NEXT
WRECK WON'T BE
YOURS! WE'LL
WATCH THE REEF
AND CLAIM IT
BEFORE IT DRIFTS
UP HERE!

YOU COWARDLY
BEGGARS WOULDN'T
DARE ROW OUT IN A
STORM! NOW GET
AWAY BEFORE I CLAIM
YOUR CORPSES AS
DEAD SALVAGE!

THREE NIGHTS LATER, HIS FALSE BEACONS
PLACED, THE MURDEROUS SCAVENGER WATCHES
WITH DEVILISH CERTAINTY...



THERE SHE IS! SHE'S HUNG
UP ON THE REEF LIKE I
PLANNED IT! BY THE TIME
I REACH HER THE
CREW'LL BE DASHED
TO PULP!



A PLAGUE ON THIS STORM! THIS
CURSED OCEAN'S TURNING ME ALL
AROUND! BUT I MUST REACH THAT
SHIP TONIGHT! THE OTHER BEACHCOMBERS
WILL BE OUT LIKE MAGGOTS ONCE
THEY SPOT THIS WRECK! THEY WON'T
GIVE THE LOOT TIME TO DRIFT
ASHORE ON MY BEACH!

IN THE WILD FURY OF THE SWIRLING
SEA, THE BOAT SPINNING ABOUT LIKE
A TOY TOP...



WHERE THE DEVIL IS
THE WRECK? I SAW
HER OFF TO STARBOARD
A MINUTE AGO!



THERE'S A LIGHT!
I'LL STEER TO IT
AND GET MY
BEARINGS...

THE LONG BOAT CUTS THRU
THE MOUNTAINOUS WAVES, THE
LIGHT BEACON LOOMS CLOSE
AS SUDDENLY, THE SCAVENGER'S
HANDS FREEZE IN TERROR ON
THE OARS...



THAT LIGHT I'M HEADING
FOR... IT'S MY LIGHT! I'LL
BE WRECKED!



NO! NO!
I'VE GOT TO
TURN BACK!



S...SAFE! BUT NOT
FOR LONG! I MUST
FIND SHORE OR I'LL
BE CARRIED OUT
TO SEA IN THIS
BLASTED STORM!

HARDER AND HARDER, THE
DESPERATE MAN PULLS ON HIS
OARS. AND HIS EYES SEARCH
FOR A GUIDE TO LAND...



THERE...A CHANNEL
MARKER! IF I CAN
REACH IT, I'LL BE
ABLE TO FIGURE
MY WAY BACK TO
SHORE!

WITH QUICK CHOPPING STROKES, HE BRINGS
THE BOAT CLOSER TO THE BEACON! THE
FLICKERING LIGHT IS NEARER, NEARER AND
SUDDENLY, BEYOND IT, HE SEES A LOOMING
OMINOUS SHADOW...



THE WRECK...
THAT'S MY FALSE
BEACON, TOO!



WHAAAAA

AAAAA

NEAR DAWN,
THE STORM
PASSES...
THE TIDE
WASHES
WRECKAGE
AND DEAD
DEBRIS
ASHORE,
AS
GREEDY
HANDS
SCAVANGE
THE
POCKETS
OF...
THE
SCAVENGER!



THE END

IT WAS THE YEAR 2056AD! IT WAS A TIME OF THE DECLINE OF MAN, FOR IN THE PRECEDING 30 YEARS THE BRILLIANT ENGINEER MARC BRAYDON HAD BROUGHT THE *MACHINE* TO THE PEAK OF *PERFECTION*! YES, IT WAS A TIME WHEN ROBOTS RULED THE EARTH, FOR THAT WAS THE...

AGE *of the* IRON MEN!

I'M NOT QUITE SURE I UNDERSTAND, MARC BRAYDON! DO YOU MEAN THAT THE DOZEN OR SO ROBOTS IN FRONT OF US WILL TAKE OVER ALL THE WORK, THE LABOR, THE EXECUTIVE AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANKIND?

PRECISELY, HAMMOND! OH, NOT JUST THOSE IRON MEN OUT THERE! SOME OF THEM WILL BUILD *OTHER* IRON MEN! WITHIN TEN YEARS, MAN WILL BE COMPLETELY *FREE*!



THE 25-YEAR-OLD ENGINEER THREW THE SWITCH THAT STARTED THE ROBOTS ON THEIR ENDLESS EXISTENCE OF SERVITUDE TO MANKIND...

THERE! FROM NOW ON THEY ARE ON THEIR OWN, INDEPENDENT OF MANKIND, YET MAN'S SERVANT! EACH ROBOT HAS ITS OWN ELECTRONIC BRAN TO SEND MESSAGES TO THE VARIOUS PARTS OF ITS IRON BODY TO MAKE HIM DO HIS JOB!

IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA... THE TIME WHEN WE HUMANS WILL LIVE ONLY FOR THE BUSINESS OF PLEASURE, ~~RECREATION~~ SPORTS, DINING, PLAYGOING!

MARC BRAYDON, YOU'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE GREATEST MAN OF THIS OR ANY OTHER CENTURY! THINK OF IT! NONE OF US NEED EVER WORK OR WORRY ABOUT EARNING A LIVING AGAIN!



AT FIRST, WHEN ROBOTS RELEASED MEN FROM THE LABORS THE SPORTS-MINDED EITHER WATCHED GAMES OR PLAYED THEMSELVES! EVENTUALLY, MAN TURNED THE ACTIVE END OF SPORTS OVER TO THE ROBOTS, TOO...



FOR SOME TIME BECAME AN EXCESSIVE PILING OF DADGUM, WITH THE SILENT TALKER GOING TO DO THE WORK.

I TRY TO RECALL THE OLD DAYS WHEN WE EITHER HAD TO COOK AND WASH Dishes OURSELVES, OR PAY SERVANTS TO DO THE JOBS!



EVEN IN THE MOST HUMBLE HOME, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR THE PEOPLE BUT ENDLESS HOURS, YEARS OF COMPLETE IDLENESS!



WARREN, YOU PROMISED NOT TO IDLE AWAY YOUR TIME ONCE YOU LEFT YOUR JOB! YOU LOOKED FORWARD TO PUTTERING IN YOUR GARDEN!

EMILY, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO DO SINCE THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED MY ROBOT GROUNDKEEPER!

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, EMILY, I'M GETTING BORED! I WISH I COULD GO BACK TO WORK! I DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT ALL THIS IDLENESS... NO GOOD CAN COME OF IT!

I REMEMBER TEN YEARS AGO HOW YOU COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FIFTEEN-HOUR WEEK! "A MAN NEEDS MORE TIME OFF FOR HIS FAMILY, TO ENJOY LIFE!" YOU SAID! NOW YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT TOO MUCH TIME OFF!



SOME BORED PEOPLE FOR LACK OF ANYTHING NEW TO AMUSE THEM, TOOK TO FURNISHING THE ROBOTS WITH PLASTIC HEADS! BUT SOON THIS JOB, TOO, WAS TAKEN OVER BY ROBOTS...



WITHIN ANOTHER TEN YEARS, ROBOTS HAD DEVELOPED TO SUCH A HIGH DEGREE THAT THEY BEGAN TO TAKE OVER THE JOB OF RUNNING THE WORLD! THEY DID A PERFECT, FAULTLESS JOB! THE MISTAKES OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT HAD BEEN ELIMINATED...

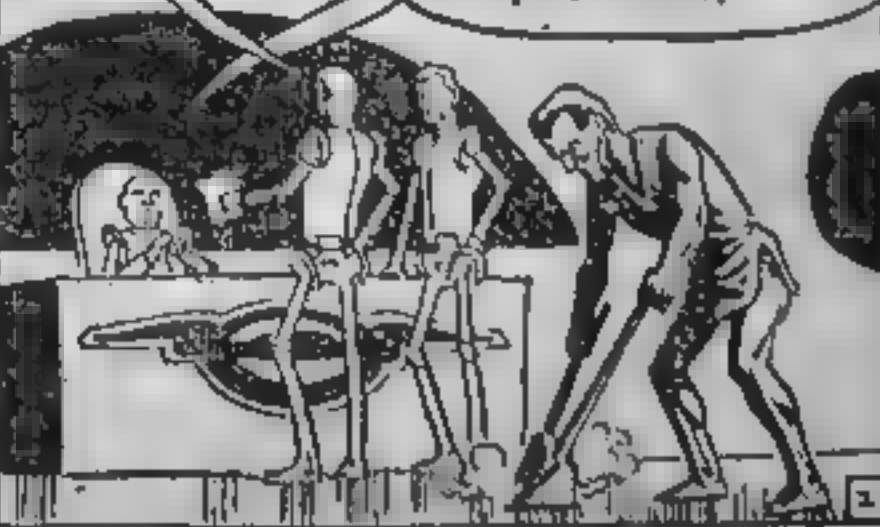
YOU HUMANS DEMANDED PERFECTION OF US ROBOTS! WE SHALL EXPECT IT OF YOU! EVERY ORDER, EVERY LAST BRICK MUST BE IN ITS PRECISE SPOT TO THE THOUSANDTH-OF-AN-INCH!



EACH NATION HAD A ROBOT AT ITS HEAD! THE PROCESS OF MAKING MEN USEFUL AGAIN WAS THE GREATEST PROBLEM CONFRONTING EACH ROBOT LEADER!

COMPLAINTS CAME FROM EVERY QUARTER, YOUR EXCELLENCY! THE INCOMPETENCE OF HUMANS IS APPALLING!

THEY'VE LED USELESS LIVES FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS! IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER 20 TO ACHIEVE EVEN THEIR FORMER EFFICIENCY! THEY'LL NEVER EQUAL ROBOT INTELLIGENCE OR ABILITY!



BY 2056 HUMANS AGAIN YEARNED FOR FREEDOM! NOT FREEDOM TO IDLE, BUT FREEDOM TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINIES! MARC BRAYDON, WHO HAD BROUGHT ABOUT THIS AGE OF THE IRON MEN, NOW SOUGHT TO DESTROY IT.

WE WILL FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS MORAL MORASS! WE WILL BATTLE TO THE DEATH FOR OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD!



THAT SAME YEAR REVOLT BROKE OUT AROUND THE WORLD! LABORER HUMANS USED THEIR TOOLS AS WEAPONS! BUT WATER, GREAT ENEMY OF THE IRON MEN, WAS THE MOST DECISIVE WEAPON OF ALL!



AND SO ENDED THE GREAT MOTION PICTURE SPECTACLE, 'AGE OF THE IRON MEN!' THE AUDIENCE SAT IN STUNNED SILENCE FOR A FULL MINUTE...



THE HOUSE LIGHTS WENT UP, AND AS THE AUDIENCE FLED TOWARD THE EXITS, THERE WAS ANXIOUS MURMURING...



LORVIG, IS IT POSSIBLE? DOES SUCH DANGER REALLY EXIST?

NO, RANA OF COURSE NOT...

FOR THIS WAS STILL 2056 A.D., AGE OF THE IRON MEN, AND THE ROBOT AUDIENCE HAD GOOD REASON TO BE UNEASY...

HUMANS TURNED OVER THE RIGHT TO RUN THE WORLD TO US MACHINES! WE'LL NEVER LET THEM HAVE THAT RIGHT BACK!



BUT HOPE STILL LIVED IN EVERY HUMAN HEART! EVEN NOW THERE WERE SECRET MEETINGS...



THE TIME FOR REVOLT AGAINST OUR ROBOT MASTERS IS FAST APPROACHING!

EVERYWHERE EDUCATED ELDERS WERE SECRETLY PREPARING YOUTH FOR FREEDOM... FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES THEY'D ONE DAY SHOULDERS AGAIN!



STOUT SORCERY...

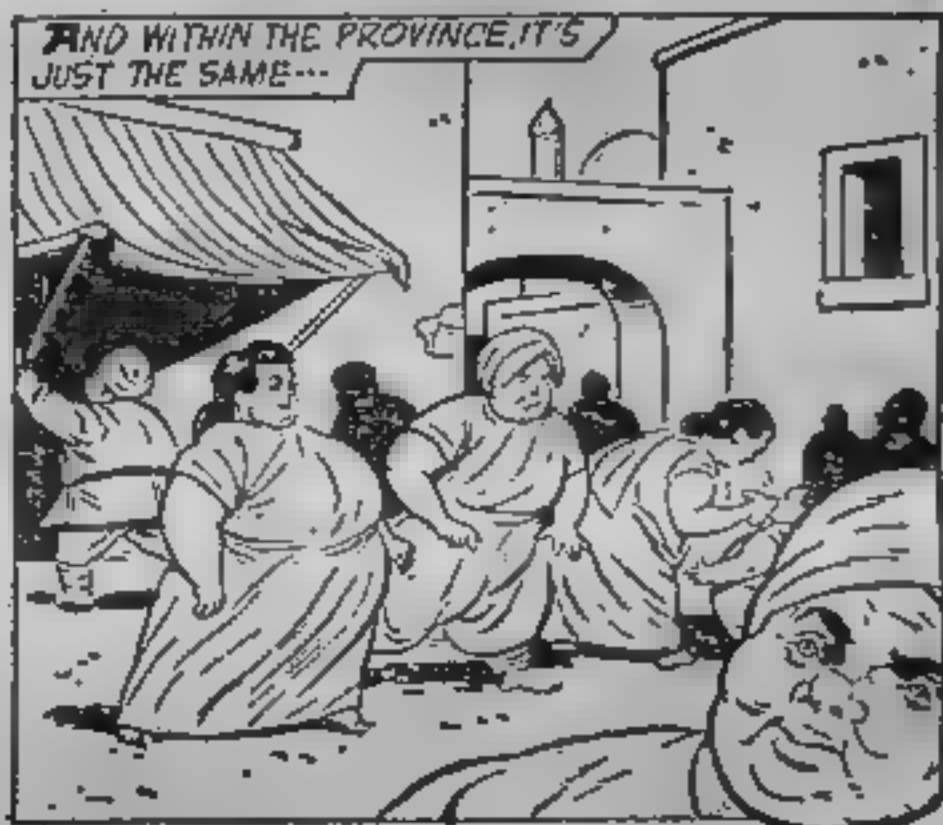


HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ENDOPHORE? IT'S A TINY, REMOTE PROVINCE DEEP IN INDIA AND IT'S... WELL, DIFFERENT! IF YOU WERE TO CROSS ITS BORDERS, YOU'D BE HALTED BY BORDER GUARDS--AND THEY'RE DIFFERENT--

AND WITHIN THE PROVINCE, IT'S JUST THE SAME--



FUNNY HOW FAT THEY ARE--ALL OF THEM!



EVEN THE MOVIE QUEENS--

Coming SOON--



"MOUNTAINS OF LOVE"

SKINNY PEOPLE? OH, SURE--BUT THEY DON'T LAST LONG IN ENDOPHORE--

I'M GLAD TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE. A MAN LIKE ME JUST HAS NO FUTURE HERE!



THE REASON FOR ALL THIS FAT BUSINESS? IT'S BURIED IN ANTIQUITY--BUT ODDLY ENOUGH, YOU MIGHT GET THE ANSWER FROM EDWARD V. ENNIS--HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH--

WE'VE INVESTIGATED PSYCHIC PHENOMENA ALL OVER THE WORLD--INCLUDING ENDOPHORE! COME ON IN AND LET ME TELL YOU WHAT WE LEARNED!



TO BEGIN WITH, YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT **MEDIUMS**! THEY'RE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A DIRECT CONNECTION WITH WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THE OCCULT, THE SUPERNATURAL... THE **UNKNOWN**! AND BEING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, THEY HAVE OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY POWERS!



"WHAT KIND OF POWERS? WELL, LET ME GIVE YOU THE SIMPLEST EXAMPLE. YOU'VE HEARD OF **LEVITATION**, HAVEN'T YOU--THE POWER OF RAISING AND MOVING INANIMATE OBJECTS! LIKE THIS, FOR EXAMPLE..."



SOME MEDIUMS, HOWEVER, POSSESS FAR GREATER POWERS THAN THIS. FOR PROOF, LET'S GO BACK IN HISTORY TO **ENDOPHORE** MANY CENTURIES AGO. IT WAS RULED BY THE **MAHARAJAH MANHAR** THEN...



MANHAR WAS PAINFULLY THIN--AND IT WASN'T STRANGE THAT HE SHOULD DISLIKE THOSE WHO WEREN'T! THAT'S WHY HE JUST COULDN'T STAND FAT PEOPLE...

I CARE NOT HOW IMPORTANT HIS FAMILY... I LIKE HIM NOT! STRIP HIM OF HIS TITLES AND POSSESSIONS, AND BANISH HIM FROM MY KINGDOM!



THIS WAS BUT THE FIRST OF MANY MOVES HE MADE--ALL DIRECTED AGAINST THE WELL-FLESHED! THEY WERE DRIVEN OUT--



IT BECAME THE LAW OF THE LAND--

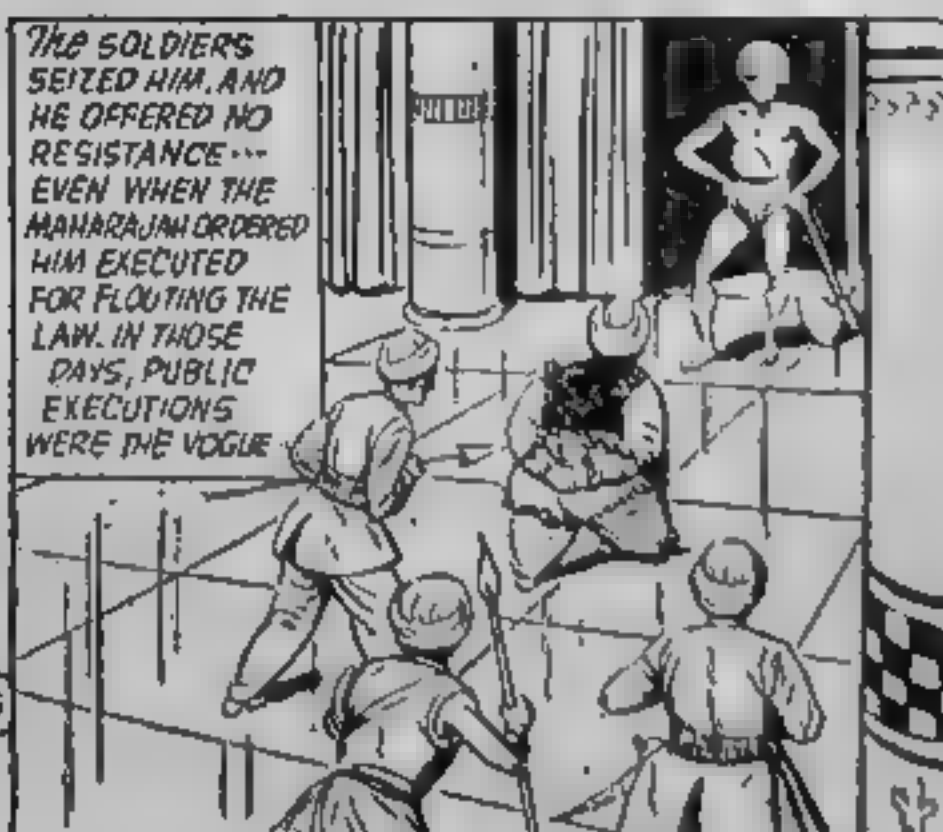
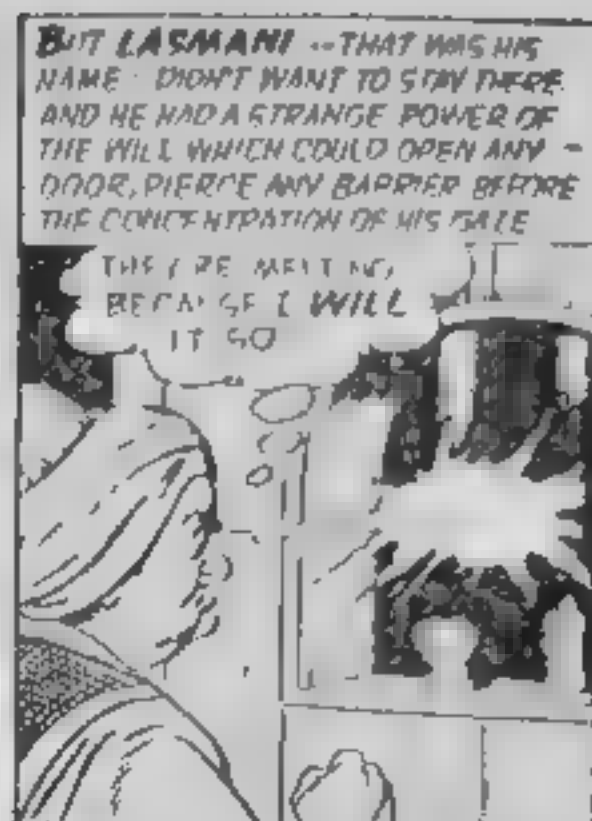
HEAR YE! HEAR YE! FROM THIS DATE ON, NO FAT PERSON SHALL BE FOUND WITHIN THE REALM OF HIS GRACE, THE MAHARAJAH OF ENDOPHORE!



BUT THEN ONE DAY---

IT IS A FINE CITY. I SHALL STOP THERE FOR REST AND REFRESHMENT--





I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE IMPUDENT ROGUE RECEIVE THE PUNISHMENT HE DESERVES!



BUT THE HEADSMAN SEEMED TO BE HAVING TROUBLE. THE FACT IS, HE COULDN'T MANAGE HIS AXE...



MY AXE! WHAT...

AT THE SAME MOMENT, THE CHAINS FELL FROM LASMANI'S HANDS...

NOW IT SHALL BE MY TURN!



CONTROL OVER INANIMATE OBJECTS... HE HAD THAT TO THE NTH DEGREE! THAT'S WHAT SENT THE AXE ROCKETING IN PURSUIT OF THE MAHARAJAH...

NO... NO...



HELP... SPARE ME! I... I'LL DO ANYTHING... GRANT ANY WISH...

YOU HAVE BUT ONE CHANCE! RESCIND YOUR CRUEL LAWS AGAINST PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF! WELCOME THEM TO YOUR KINGDOM... AND LET THEM BE HONORED RATHER THAN PERSECUTED!



IT WAS DONE! AND TO THIS DAY, STOUT PEOPLE ARE POPULAR AND REVERED IN THE PROVINCE OF ENDOPHOPE... THE STOUTER, THE BETTER...

JUST LOOK AT CORPORAL RASSETTA EATING BUT WHY SO MUCH?

THAT'S EASY. HE'S BUCKING FOR PROMOTION!



MAGIC, YOU SAY? WE PEOPLE HERE BELIEVE SUCH STORIES! WE BELIEVE THAT THE PSYCHIC POWER OF THE HUMAN WILL, IN THOSE PEOPLE KNOWN AS **MEDIUMS**, CAN EVEN CONTROL INANIMATE OBJECTS! IN SOME FEEL, WAS LASMANI'S SECRET... IN THE STRANGE CASE KNOWN AS **STOUT SORCERY!**



THE END!

THE BUSYBODY

"HASH again!"

Mrs. Miller gave her coldest look to Harold Trimble, and turned her eyes on her own plate as she sneered, "This here ain't no HOTEL, y'know. If you want roast beef, you ain't got no business livin' in a boardinghouse that sleeps and feeds you all for eighteen dollars a week!"

Mrs. Miller sneered again and pushed her cleaned plate from her, reaching for a pot of coffee that stood on a buffet alongside the dining-room table. She poured coffee into eight cups.

Carolyn Harris, the tall brunette who sat next to Mrs. Miller, stared coldly into her cup of equally cold coffee.

The boardinghouse mistress looked over her pointed nose and said, "If you expect a maid who's willing to make an extra trip to the kitchen for hot coffee, you can pay for one yourself. Devil knows I can't afford any help the way you folks put off paying your rent."

Carolyn whispered under her breath, "Devil knows you won't let anyone get away without paying rent for more than a week. Then it's 'work it out' or 'git out!' "

Jean Matsen, who sat next to Carolyn, shifted uncomfortably in her seat, then excused herself from the table. She was about to pass Mrs. Miller's chair when a hand grabbed at her wrist.

"Which reminds me, MISS MATSEN, you ain't paid me this week's rent yet. Let it go past tomorrow night, and there'll be a couple of floors to scrub and wax, or out you go."

Jean paled a little, and she began to perspire. "B-but, m-my check should've been here today. Honest, Mrs. Miller . . . anyway, it'll surely be here in the morning. I can't understand." She ran off

to her room, sobbing.

"Can't you leave her alone, Mrs. Miller?" Harold begged. "She's a sick kid . . . she's been fired from one job after another because of her bad health, and with doctor bills and medicine to keep her going so's she can LOOK for other jobs, it's hard to always pay the rent on the button. She's never failed to pay yet, even if she does it late!"

"Don't YOU talk to me in that tone, young man," Mrs. Miller snapped, turning all colors. "I don't care HOW many other bills that girl's got. If she wants to live HERE, MY bills've got to be paid FIRST. Scrubbin' floors'll strengthen a weak body, I always say."

When the meal was over, Carolyn and Harold walked from the room together. They spoke in hushed tones as they went to their rooms.

"One pleasure," Carolyn said, shaking her dark head, "but ONE pleasure in life does Jean have. That boy friend of hers, what's his name, Fred Johnson. When he can't see her for a couple of days, he sends her a box of her favorite chocolates, and it cheers her up because she knows someone's thinking of her."

Harold smiled thoughtfully, "That guy sure must be nuts about her, but she won't agree to marry him because she's so sick and she's afraid to burden him with all the bills and responsibilities. I think if she continues to turn him down, some day he'll do something desperate."

"Don't worry," Carolyn chided, "if there are any developments in that romance, old biddy Mrs. Miller will be sure to hear them on her extension, or read it in Jean's mail, or hear it right thru the key-

hole. Well, g'night, Harold. I've got letters to write!"

In the kitchen, Mrs. Miller begrudgingly picked up the dishpan and brought it to the sink. She picked up the dirty dishes with a great deal of disgust, and dropped them quickly into the soapy water. Then she annoyingly looked at the clock on the wall above her.

"Almost eight-thirty already. Tsk, tsk, I won't have time to catch that T.V. program if I wash these dishes. Guess I'll just leave them soaking. I'll just hope that Matsen girl doesn't get her check in the morning! I'll leave the dishes for her to do then. As a matter of fact, why should I SLAVE to do other people's dirty dishes? Goodness knows that eighteen dollars a week doesn't make me a DISHWASHER, too! I'll just make SURE Jean Matsen does the dishes from now on. I'll just make CERTAIN!"

The conniving woman left the soapy dishes soaking and settled down comfortably before her own television set. Originally she had bought it for the public living room, but when she found the boarders were more interested in the football games and dramatic plays, she had too difficult a time watching her fashion programs, so she took the television set into her own sitting room. She noticed the box of chocolates on her bed . . . the chocolates that had come to Jean Matsen from her boy friend, but which she had been too busy to deliver to her much-too-pretty young boarder, and she helped herself to a handful of candies.

"What she don't know came, won't be missed," the old woman reasoned, in her own peculiar way of reasoning.

Morning came, and Mrs. Mil-

fer rushed her boarders through breakfast, anxious to get them all out of the dining room before the mailman came. She piled the dirty dishes in the sink with those of the night before, and smiled to herself as she ran some hot water into the dishpan. She heard the footsteps of the mailman at the front door and, wiping her hands dry on her apron, she ran to greet him before he rang the bell.

"Good morning, Mrs. Miller... nice day," he said automatically.

"Humph!" she replied. "Telephone bill... gas bill... grocery bill... and, what's this? A check!"

"Don't get too happy, Mrs. Miller," the mailman jokingly said. "That check ain't fer you... it's fer that nice Miss Matsen. How's she feeling today?"

"Mighty tired," she smiled, "yes, MIGHTY tired." She stuffed the check into her apron pocket and turned just as Jean Matsen came down the steps, an expectant look on her pale face.

"Nope!" Mrs. Miller sneered. "Didn't come. Seems as though it ain't ever goin' to come, and it seems to me there are lots of dirty dishes in the sink. If ya want to eat and sleep here, MISS Matsen, get to work. And when you've finished, the floor needs a washin'!"

"B... but, Mrs. M-Miller, I... I can't understand... ohhhhh...!" The rest of Jean's statement trailed off as she turned sadly toward the kitchen to pay her board. When Mrs. Miller heard the sounds of dishes being done, she slipped the check from her pocket and took it to her room, where she tore it into bits and threw the slips of paper triumphantly into the waste-paper basket.

That afternoon, a familiar figure came to the door, and Mrs. Miller greeted Fred Johnson with a knowing grin.

"Sorry, Mr. Johnson, but Miss Matsen told me she's not in to YOU."

"NOT IN? You must be mistaken. You MUST be." He looked up then and saw a disturbed Jean standing behind Mrs. Miller. She looked tired. He gruffly grabbed Jean's arm and led her angrily to the sitting room, slamming the door. His anger was great, and Mrs. Miller felt triumphant once more.

She smiled silently as she thought, "No sense promoting that romance. If she marries and leaves here, I won't have anyone to do all my heavy work. Those others are all too darned smart to let me get away with a thing like that, where this Matsen girl's too weak to protest." She glued her ear to the sitting-room door and listened to the argument.

"You told that nosy woman you're not in to me, didn't you, Jean?" Johnson was screaming. Mrs. Miller grinned as she heard Jean protest her innocence to the man who was so blinded by his love and his anger. Mrs. Miller managed to get away from the door just as Johnson stalked from the room furiously. She hid behind the stairwell as Jean trailed out after him, pleading that he listen to her before he leave.

"I SWEAR I didn't say it, I SWEAR it! She's just a jealous old woman who takes her frustrations out on me, causing all sorts of trouble, just because I'm young and she's old and wrinkled and never HAD a romance! Won't you listen to me, Fred?" she pleaded once more. "FRED!"

The door slammed shut, and Jean turned on Mrs. Miller. She opened her mouth to say something, then turned and crumpled to a stop, her body shaking uncontrollably with tears.

The night was quiet except for Jean's sobbing. Morning came once more, and when the mailman rang the bell, Mrs. Miller hurried to the door. She took the box quickly from the mailman,

then disappeared into her own room. It was a box of candy, and she was relieved that she had gotten it to her room before Miss Matsen saw it.

"A peace offering, no doubt, from that crazy fella of hers. He wants to make up with her. Well, I can't have that! First thing you know, she'll give up refusin' his offers of marriage, and walk to the altar. And my MAID OF ALL WORK," she snickered, "will walk out the door!"

She looked at the rich, dark chocolates and the aroma tempted her. She was about to put one into her mouth when she heard familiar footsteps. It was Jean and her fiance. She popped it into her mouth, hiding the box behind her apron, and was chewing noisily when the door opened suddenly.

Their voices were high-pitched and extremely nervous. Fred spoke first. "That box of candy... did it come in the mail? Well, throw it away. PLEASE throw it AWAY before something terrible happens."

"I ain't got no box of candy that belongs to someone else. Why are you so excited?" she replied, letting the taste of the rich chocolate down into her throat.

Jean was horrified. She screamed. "You've eaten one! YOU'VE EATEN ONE! You fool! That was no peace offering as you thought. Fred, you tell her."

"That candy is poisoned! In a moment you'll be dead! I... was... desperate. If I couldn't have Jean, I didn't want her to live! But I came to my senses and rushed to get here before... she ate any! But I'm too late!"

Mrs. Miller clutched at her throat and from her hands dropped the box of candy from which one chocolate was missing. This time her own greedy plans had betrayed her!

THE END D-992

BEWARE... the Ticking Clocks!

MANY WERE
THE MYSTIC POWERS
OF ANCIENT MONARCHS,
BUT NO MAN EVER
HAD AS STRANGE A
POWER AS DID
KING LINUS!
AND THIS IS HIS
TALE...



IT IS SAID THAT IN OLDEN DAYS THERE WAS A KINDLY KING NAMED LINUS!

LONG LIVE KING LINUS!!

HOORAY!

CHEERS FOR OUR SOVEREIGN!



AND IT WAS WITH GOOD REASON THAT THE KING'S SUBJECTS LOVED HIM...

OUR MONARCH IS THE WISEST OF ALL MEN!

THANKS TO OUR KING, WE HAVE LIVED IN PEACE FOR LO, THESE MANY YEARS!

DURING ALL HIS REIGN, OUR KINGDOM HAS KNOWN GREAT PROSPERITY!



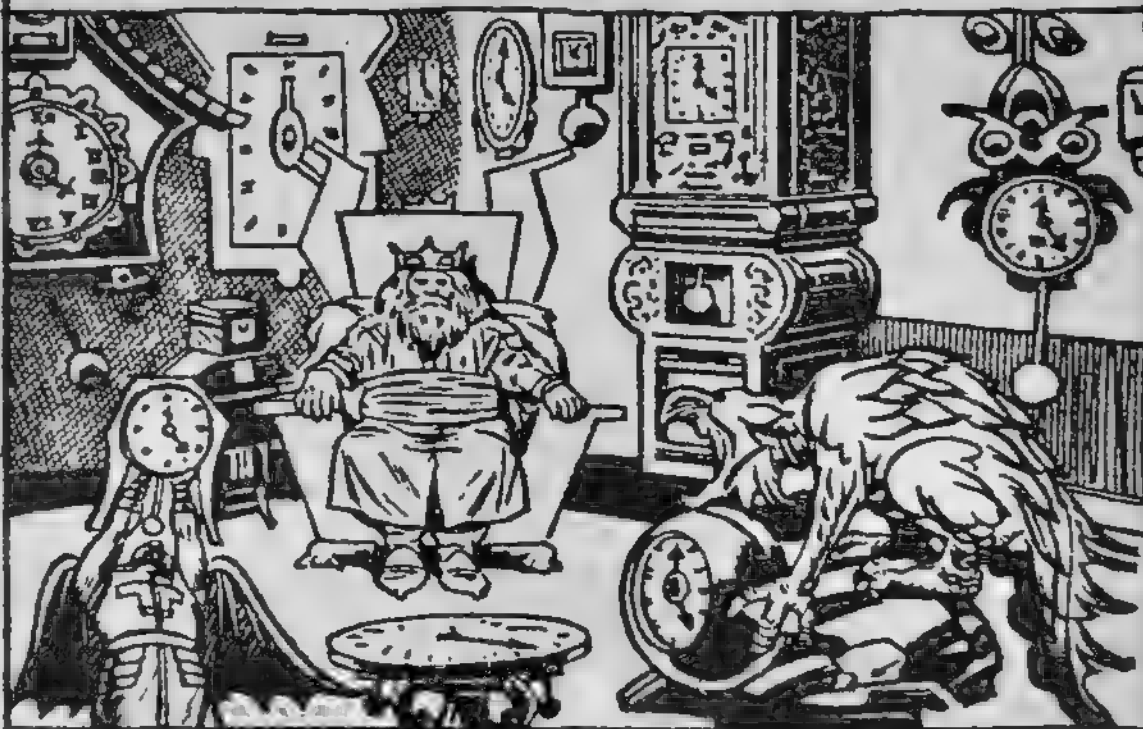
EVEN NATURE ITSELF SEEMED TO BEND TO THE WILL OF THE BENEVOLENT KING...

HIS HIGHNESS SAID THE HARVEST WOULD YIELD MUCH THIS YEAR, AND LO, IT HAS COME TO PASS!

THIS IS THE RICHEST CROP WE'VE EVER KNOWN!



BUT, THE GOOD KING HAD A HOBBY--CLOCKS! IN THE CASTLE WAS A ROOM FILLED WITH TIMEPIECES, WHERE LINUS WOULD OFTEN SIT ALONE AND RELAX...



ONE CLOCK IN PARTICULAR, ALWAYS HELD HIS INTEREST...



HOWEVER, ALL DRAMATIC STORIES NEED A VILLAIN, AND OURS HAS ONE IN THE PERSON OF CLAUDIUS ZEMU, TYRANNICAL RULER OF A NEIGHBORING KINGDOM!

I HAVE ENOUGH WEALTH AND POWER TO SATISFY ANY MAN, EXCEPT ME! FOR I WANT MORE! I WANT TO INVADE AND CONQUER LINUS' KINGDOM!

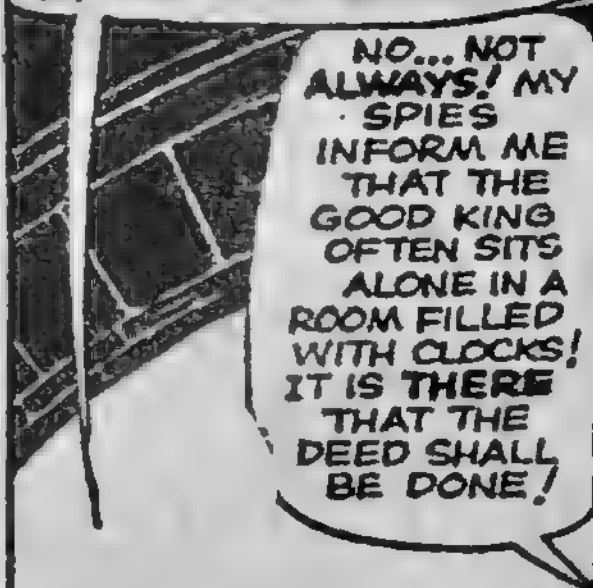
BUT, SIRE, KING LINUS' ARMY IS TOO POWERFUL! WE COULD NEVER DEFEAT HIM!



BAH! AN ARMY IS ONLY AS POWERFUL AS ITS LEADER! IF LINUS WERE ASSASSINATED, THEY WOULD BE LEADERLESS, AND THEN IT WOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR US TO CONQUER THEM!



BUT HOW CAN LINUS BE ASSASSINATED? HE IS ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY FAITHFUL GUARDS!



NO... NOT ALWAYS! MY SPIES INFORM ME THAT THE GOOD KING OFTEN SITS ALONE IN A ROOM FILLED WITH CLOCKS! IT IS THERE THAT THE DEED SHALL BE DONE!



TO MAKE CERTAIN HIS SINISTER PLAN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, ZEMU HIRED THE FOREMOST ASSASSIN IN EUROPE!

WHEN THE DEED IS DONE, YOU SHALL BE WELL PAID! GO NOW... AND DO NOT FAIL ME!

HAVE NO FEAR, YOUR MAJESTY! KLUGARI NEVER FAILS!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, OUTSIDE THE PALACE OF KING LINUS...

THE GUARD LOOKS THE OTHER WAY! NOW IS MY CHANCE!

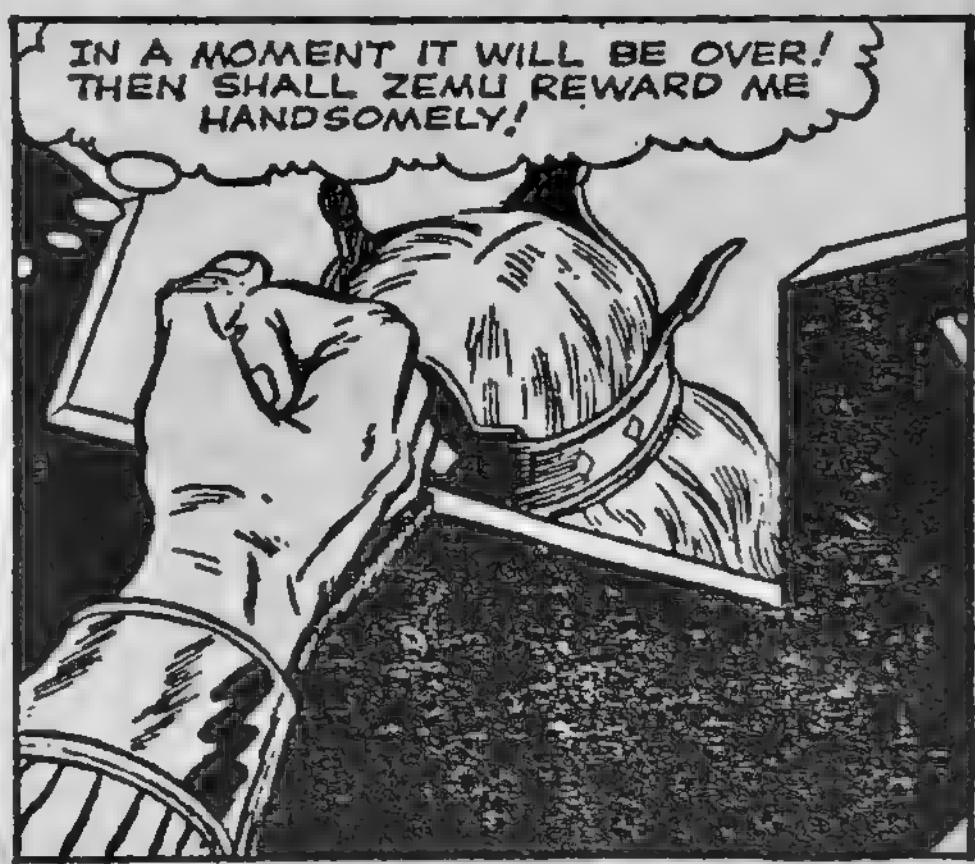
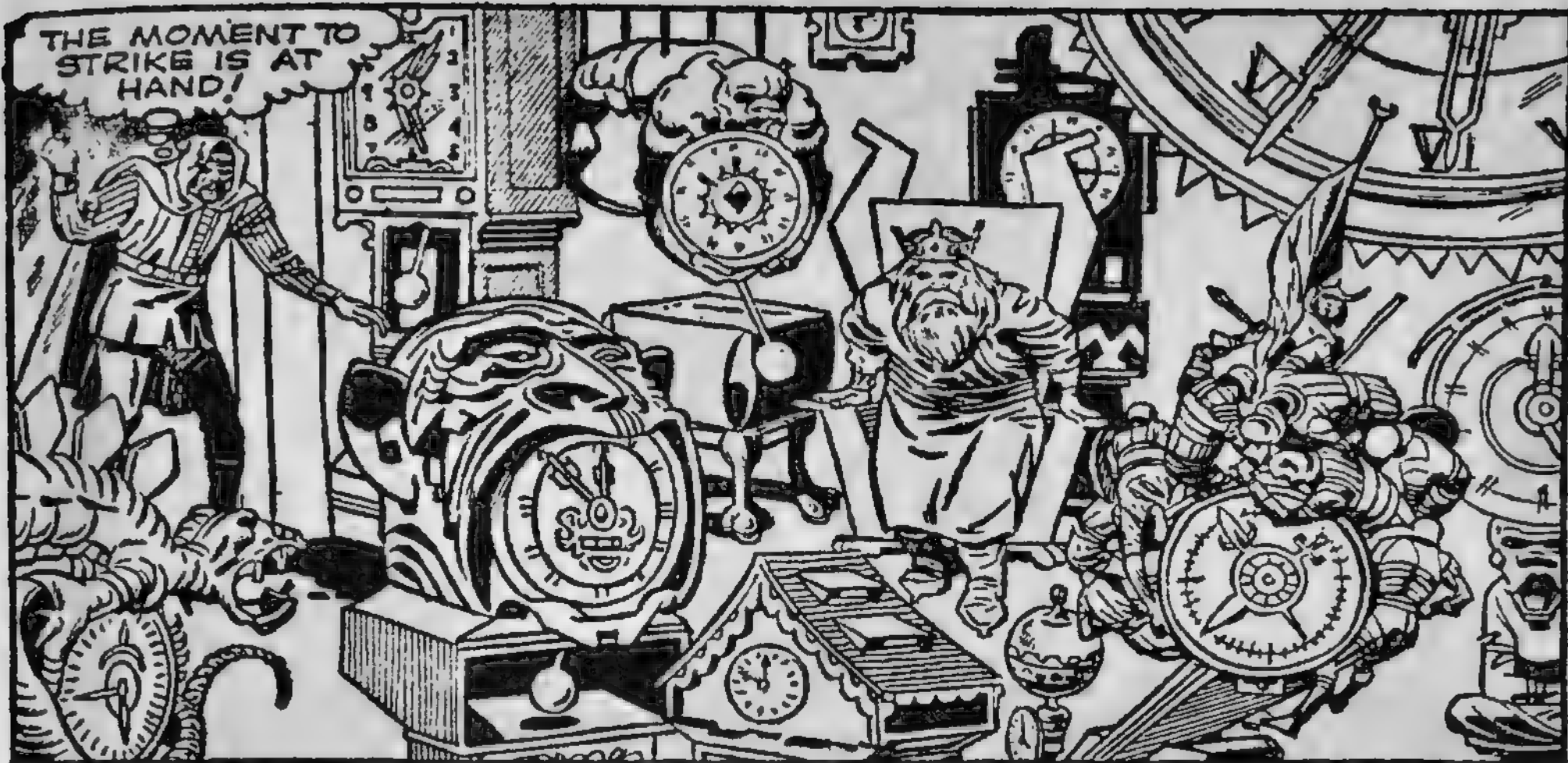


THERE IS THE KING! BUT HIS GUARDS ARE TOO CLOSE BY!

BEFORE I RETIRE, I SHALL SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY CLOCKS! YOU ARE DISMISSED FOR THE EVENING!

VERY GOOD, SIRE!





YOUR WORDS ARE USELESS, MY LORD! I MUST DO WHAT I MUST DO! SO SAVE YOUR FINAL BREATH FOR PRAYING!

NO!! YOU WILL CAUSE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES FOR YOURSELF UNLESS YOU FOREGO THIS EVIL DEED! LEAVE MY CASTLE NOW AND I SHALL NOT SUMMON THE GUARDS AGAINST YOU!



YOU ARE RIGHT WHEN YOU SAY YOU WILL NOT SUMMON THE GUARDS! YOU WILL NEVER SUMMON ANYONE AGAIN!

OTHERS HAVE TRIED TO ASSASSINATE ME, AND THEY HAVE FAILED--ALL OF THEM!



THEY MAY HAVE FAILED, BUT KLUGARI DOES NOT FAIL!!

FOR THE LAST TIME--FORGET YOUR MISSION AND LEAVE MY CASTLE!!

NO! WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH TALK! YOUR TIME IS COME!



THEN, SO BE IT!! YOU HAVE SEALED YOUR FATE--JUST AS THE OTHERS DID!!

SEALED MY FATE?? WHAT RUBBISH DO YOU SPEAK??



THAT NOISE! THE CLOCKS ARE ALL STRIKING!



I DO NOT UNDERSTAND... IT IS TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE HOUR! WHY DO THE CLOCKS STRIKE NOW??





IT WAS UNCANNY, INCREDIBLE... A KIND OF DIVINATION THAT STRAINED THE CREDULITY OF ALL WHO WITNESSED IT... THIS STRANGE, INCREDIBLE...

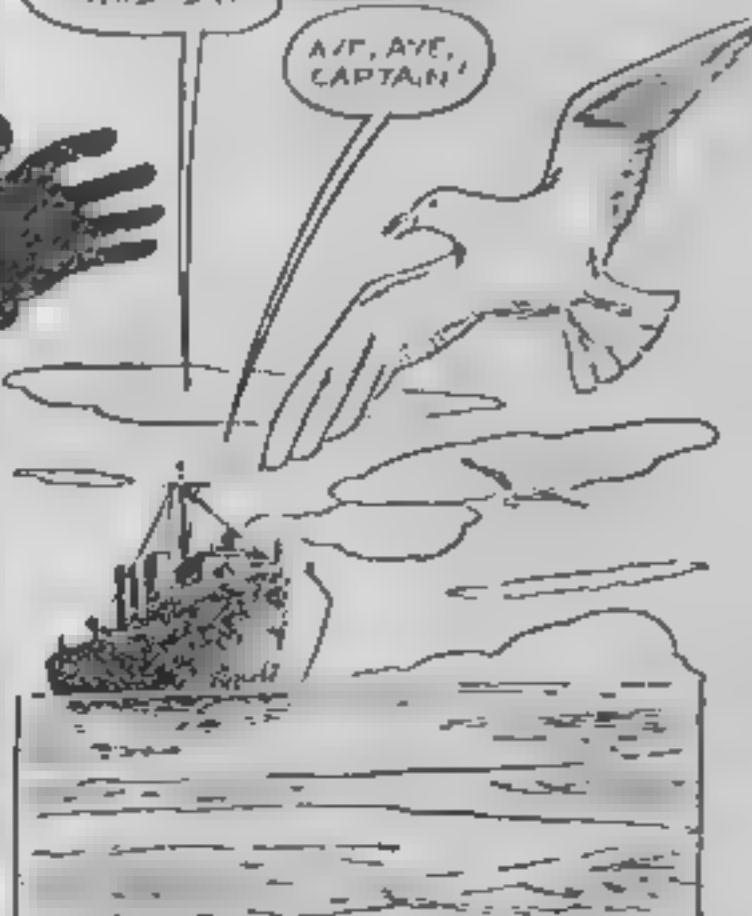
SECRET *under* the SEA!



AND A MOMENT LATER... UP ON THE BRIDGE...

HE'S CHALLENGING! STOP THE ENGINES, MR. WATERS! THIS IS IT!

AFF, AYE, CAPTAIN!



SOON THE GREAT ENGINES WERE SILENT... THE AWE-FILLED MOMENT HAD ARRIVED...

ARE WE OVER THE WRECK, MR. AQUOT... ARE YOU POSITIVE?

HAVE I BEEN WRONG BEFORE? NO! FEAR CAPTAIN THIS IS THE EXACT SPOT!



THE FOLLOWING DAY THE PAPERS CARRIED THE STORY...

SO THAT AQUOT CHARACTER HAS DONE IT AGAIN! MAYBE I OUGHTA LOOK HIM UP! MAYBE WE CAN GET TOGETHER ON A LITTLE DEAL!



LATE THAT SAME NIGHT, AS THE STRANGE MR. AQUOT TOOK HIS NIGHTLY STROLL, A FIGURE SUDDENLY EMERGED OUT OF THE SHADOWS...

IF IT'S MONEY YOU'RE AFTER...

THAT'S RIGHT, AQUOT... ONLY I WANT A LOT OF IT AND YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ME TO IT!



I FIGURE A TALENTED GUY LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOCATE SOME SUNKEN TREASURE REAL EASY! SO YOU AND ME WILL BE TAKING A LITTLE TRIP ON MY BOAT! ANY OBJECTIONS?

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AS TRAVERS' SMALL SALVAGE SHIP PLOWED THRU A RISING SEA...

HOW MUCH FURTHER, AQUOT? I'M GETTIN' IMPATIENT!

WE ARE GETTING CLOSE! THE SIGNALS ARE GETTING STRONGER!



SUDDENLY... STOP! WE ARE NOW DIRECTLY OVER THE HULL OF AN ANCIENT SHIP!

AND I BETTER BE LOADED WITH TREASURE!



QUICK, GET INTO YOUR DIVING GEAR! EVENT BEFORE THE STORM STRIKES!

THAT AIN'T THE WAY WE'RE DOING IT, FAL!



NO ONE PLAYS ME FOR A SUCKER, AQUOT! YOU'RE GONNA MAKE THE DIVE, AND YOU'D BETTER BRING UP THE TREASURE... OR ELSE!



MINUTES LATER, AS AQUOT PREPARED TO DIVE—



FIVE MINUTES PASSED, TWENTY, A HALF-HOUR—



THEN THE STORM BROKE IN ALL ITS FURY, SWEEPING THE SHIP FORWARD LIKE A CHIP—



MEANWHILE, DOWN IN THE DEEP BLUE DEPTHS BENEATH THE STORM-TOSSED WAVES—



PICTURE A LAUGHING VILLAIN ... LAUGHING YET AS DIABOLICAL AS ANY YOU'VE EVER MET! THAT'S MERRY ANDREW NEMESIS' NEWEST OPPONENT. YOU'LL BE AMAZED, PETRIFIED AS PANIC CLUTCHES AT YOUR THROAT IN THIS BREATHLESS TALE OF

NEMESIS

"YOU
COULD DIE
LAUGHING!"

STORY:
SHANE OSHEA
ART:
CHIC STONE



HAW-HAW -HEARD THIS ONE, READER? TOLD LADY SEZ TO LITTLE MORON, "FUNNY PAIR OF SOCKS YOU GOT ON... ONE YELLOW AND ONE GREEN!" "UH-HUH," SEZ THE LITTLE MORON... "AND THE STRANGE THING IS, I GOT ANOTHER PAIR JUST LIKE IT AT HOME!" YUK-YUK!



I GOT A MILLION OF 'EM... THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME MERRY ANDREW! AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE HOW MERRY I AM, JUST WATCH THIS GRENADE!





HAW-HAW-HAW! COMPLIMENTS OF MERRY ANDREW!



A WAVE OF SPECTACULAR SABOTAGE... AND THE CRY WENT OUT FOR NEMESIS! LIKE MAG... THE DESTRUCTION CEASED AND MERRY ANDREW TURNED TO... KIDNAPPING! AT THE HOME OF MULTI-MILLIONAIRE NORACE BAGBY...

THE EYEWITNESS ALONZO BAGBY SAYS IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT FOR SUCH A DASTARDLY CRIME BUT MERRY ANDREW HAS ABDUCTED HIM!



LOOK THIS IS HIS LABORATORY, AND IT'S WONDERFUL WHAT THAT BOY CAN TURN OUT IN IT! HE'S A REAL GENIUS, MY ALONZO... IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT HE'S ONLY 12 YEARS OLD! HE JUST DOESN'T DESERVE THE BAD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM ALL ALONG!

SUCH AS WHAT, MR. BAGBY?



"WELL... LETS TAKE THE WAY HIS TEACHERS ALWAYS SEEM TO RESENT HIM... PROBABLY BECAUSE HE KNOWS SO MUCH MORE THAN THEY EVER COULD!"

ALONZO BAGBY, I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU STAY AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY FOR A MONTH!

HEAVENLY NED, WHAT DID I DO, MISS PRINKLES?



"AND AS FAR AS THE KIDS WENT, IT WAS THE SAME STORY. ALWAYS PICKING ON THE POOR YOUNGSTER, BRUTALIZING HIM..."

ATTABOY, BUTCH! GIVE HIM ANOTHER!

SOCK HIM! THAT ALONZO COULDN'T FIGHT HIS WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG!



"BUT I GUESS THESE THINGS AREN'T IMPORTANT... WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IS THE KIDNAPPING! IT WAS TWO NIGHTS AGO, AS YOU KNOW... I HEARD MY SON SCREAM FOR HELP, AND RUNNING INTO HIS ROOM, I SAW..."

LET ME G-GO!

NOT UNTIL YOUR FATHER PAYS ME THE MILLION DOLLAR RANSOM I'M AFTER. HA-HA!

STOP!



BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO STOP HIM. IN A SECOND, HE WAS GONE... IN A LONG LEAP THAT REMINDED ME OF A GIANT KANGAROO! I'M READY TO PAY THE MILLION RANSOM IF IT'LL ONLY GET ME MY BOY BACK...

LET ME HAVE A TRY AT IT FIRST. WHO KNOWS... I MIGHT GET LUCKY AND COME UP WITH A CLUE!

ODDLY, THE CLUE CAME AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AND FAR MORE EASILY THAN NEMESIS HAD EVER EXPECTED. IT CAME TO HIM THROUGH HIS STRANGE POWER OF E.S.P. --- **EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION** ---

PLEASE... COME AND SAVE ME, SOMEBODY! HE HAS ME IN AN OLD STONE HOUSE ON PROUT'S POINT... AND I -- I DON'T THINK HE PLANS TO RETURN ME ALIVE...

THAT EXPRESS ON YOUR FACE -- IS SOMETHING HAPPENING...?

QUIET... I'M GETTING A FLASH!

THROUGH THE AIR AT BREAK-NECK SPEED... TO THE OLD STONE HOUSE ON PROUT'S POINT...

HA-HA... WHAT A JOKE IT WILL BE! YOUR FATHER EXPECTING YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND... BUT IT ISN'T GOING TO BE THAT WAY, IS IT, ALONZO?

NO... NO! K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME... **HELP!**

TAKE YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM THAT BOY, YOU RAT!

CRASH!

WHAT THE...!

THEN... A BARRAGE OF SMASHING ELECTRICAL POWER, SUFFICIENT TO KILL A HUNDRED MEN...

HO-HO... YOU WERE EASY! WHAT A JOKE TO PLAY ON THE GREAT NEMESIS... TO END HIS CAREER LIKE THIS!

FSST!

CRACK!

AND NOW TO INCREASE THE POWER! I'M A GREAT JOKER. AS THE LITTLE MORON SAID WHEN THEY STRAPPED HIM IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR... **"THIS IS GOING TO COME AS A GREAT SHOCK TO ME!"**

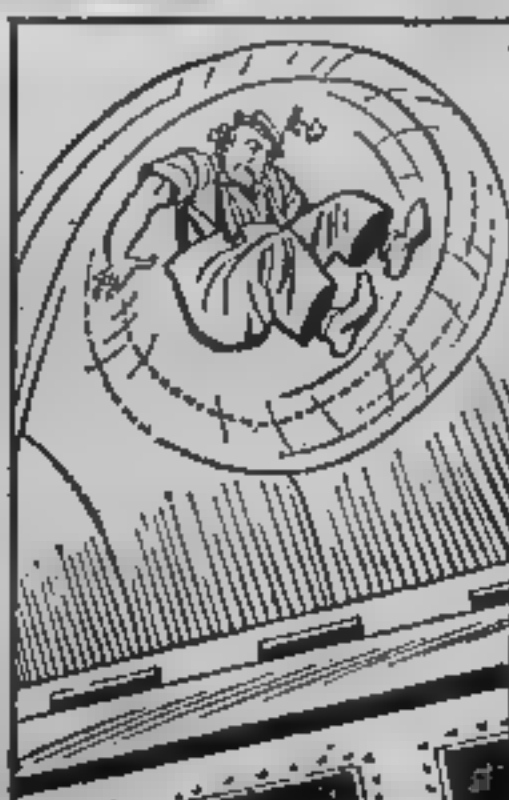
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GOT TO... GET OUT...

KERPOW!



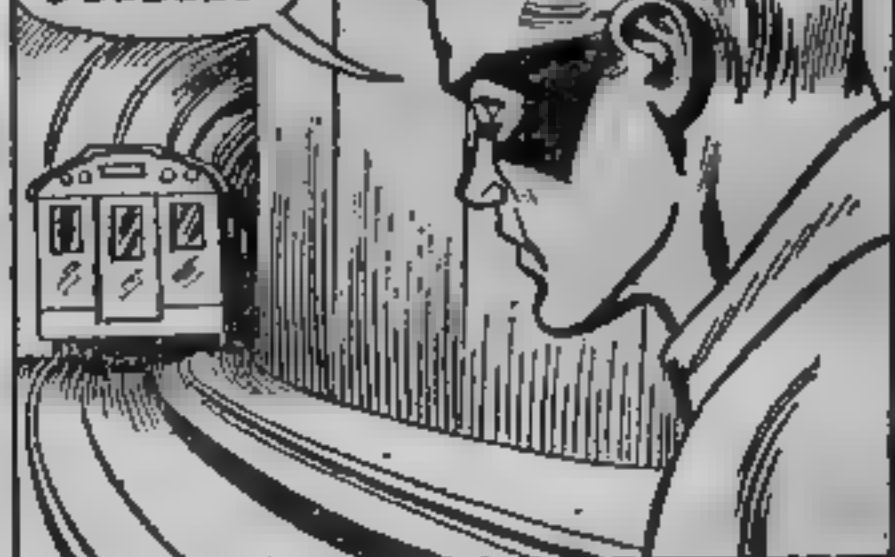




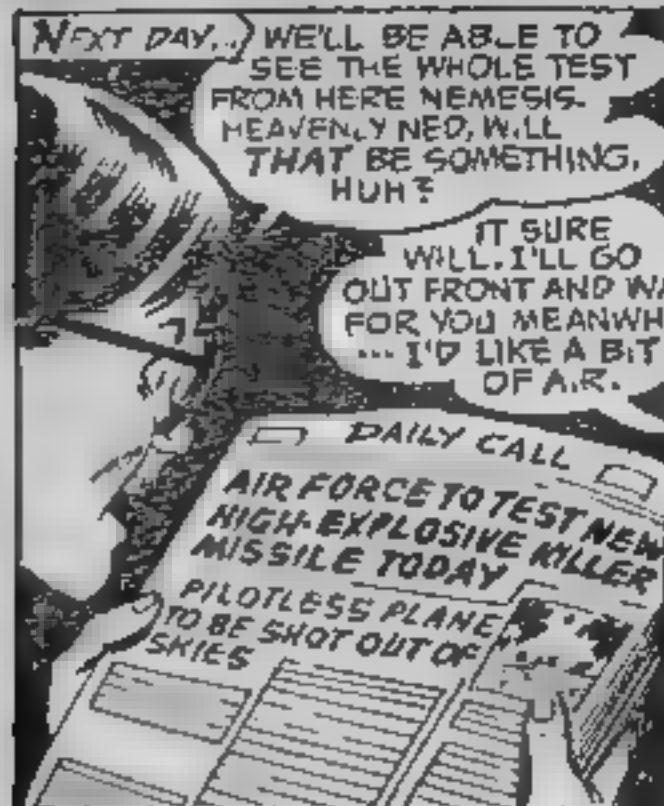
ONLY ONE THING SAVED NEMESIS AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT... **INSTINCT...**



GOT OUT OF THAT ONE BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH. FUNNY HOW I HIT THAT MERRY ANDREW A TERRIFIC LICK... AND HE CAME BACK **DOUBLE!**



NEXT DAY... WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE WHOLE TEST FROM HERE NEMESIS. HEAVENLY NED, WILL THAT BE SOMETHING, HUH?



IT SURE WILL. I'LL GO OUT FRONT AND WAIT FOR YOU MEANWHILE... I'D LIKE A BIT OF AIR.

PLENTY OF TIME... THAT MISSILE TEST WON'T COME OFF FOR A WHILE YET.

THIS TIME I'M READY FOR HIM. MAYBE HE CAN'T BE KILLED LIKE AN ORDINARY MAN... BUT I'LL START OFF WITH THIS **SUPER-POWERFUL GAS!**



GLUG!

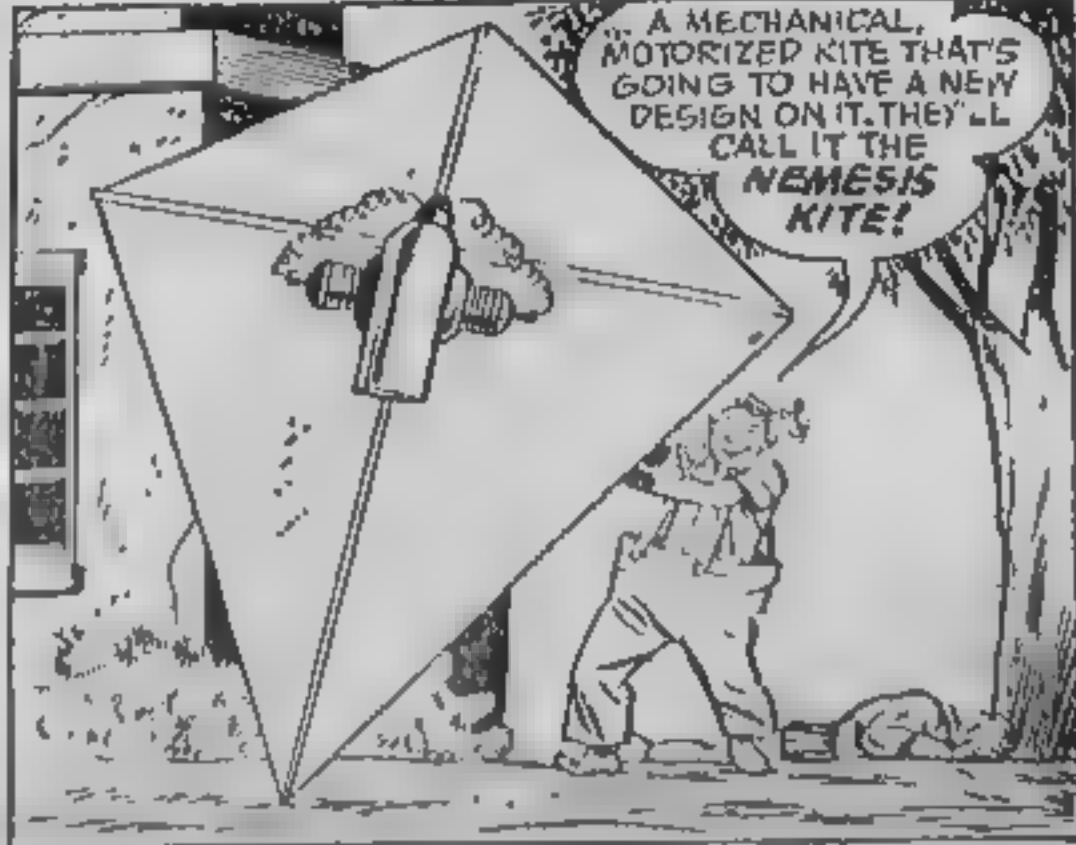
OH-HHHH...



YUK-YUK!... REMEMBER YOU TOLD ME TO GO FLY A KITE? WELL, I'M GOING TO DO IT...



A MECHANICAL, MOTORIZED KITE THAT'S GOING TO HAVE A NEW DESIGN ON IT. THEY'LL CALL IT THE **NEMESIS KITE!**



YOU CAN'T KILL
A GHOST. TRUE.
BUT WITH AN
EXPLOSIVE LIKE
THAT MISSILE
PACKS, YOU CAN
SCATTER HIS
ECTOPLASM
SO WIDELY THAT
IT CAN NEVER
BE REASSEMBLED
AGAIN. AND THAT'S
JUST AS GOOD!



CLEVERLY, THE KITE WAS MANEUVERED INTO
POSITION... EXACTLY BETWEEN THE PILOTLESS
PLANE AND THE KILLER MISSILE!

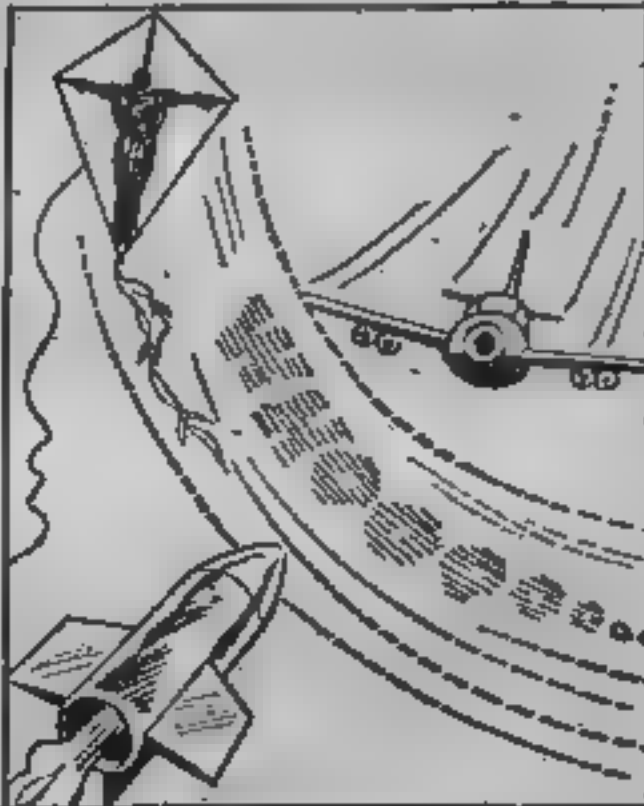


SO THAT'S IT... IT'S GOING
TO BE A SANDWICH... WITH ME
-- THE MEAT. AND I HAVEN'T
GOT ENOUGH STRENGTH
-- TO BREAK LOOSE YET...



BUT SOMETIMES, IN MOMENTS
OF DIRE EMERGENCY, THE
UNKNOWN LOOKS OUT
FOR ITS OWN...

LET THERE BE
A **MAGICAL
WIND**...



ODD... THAT EXPLOSION
MUST HAVE BLOWN THE
KITE TO BITS. ALONG WITH
NEMESIS... BUT THE CABLE
IS STILL TAUT. I'D BETTER
REEL IT IN AND SEE
WHAT THE ANSWER
IS...







SO THAT'S IT!
MERRY ANDREW
...A ROBOT!



SO HERE YOU ARE, MERRY
ANDREW! HOW DID IT GO?
DID YOU FINISH OFF NEMESIS,
AS I ORDERED?



IF HE DID, I'M THE
LIVELIEST
GHOST YOU
EVER KNEW!

G-GULP!
W-WHAT I
SAID... I WAS
JUST...
J-JOKING...



THE JOKE WINDS UP ON YOU,
YOUNGSTER. YOU STARTED
WITH THOSE SABOTAGE JOBS,
STRIKING THROUGH THE
ROBOT YOU HAD DEVELOPED
RIGHT HERE IN THIS LAB...
TRYING TO GET EVEN WITH
THE WORLD FOR REJECTING
YOU! BUT WHEN I CAME INTO
THE PICTURE, IT WAS A THREAT
TO YOU. YOU FIXED THAT
FAKE "KIDNAPPING" IN
ORDER TO FINISH ME
OFF AND GET ME OUT OF
THE WAY... AND THEN
FOLLOWED UP WITH THAT
SUBWAY BUSINESS AND
THE KILLER MISSILE!



I DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT YOU
UNTIL I HEARD THAT ROBOT
OF YOURS USE YOUR PET
EXPRESSION... "HEAVENLY
NED" I HE'D CAUGHT IT FROM
CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO
YOU, I GUESS. AND NOW
YOU'VE GOT TO PAY
FOR YOUR
CRIMES!

NO NO...
P-PLEASE
...SPARE ME
AND I'LL MAKE
YOU RICH...



ALONZO BAGBY WAS A
LITTLE RAT, READER... AS
DANGEROUS AS A STRIKING
COBRA! THAT'S WHY HE WAS
SENTENCED TO THE REFORMATORY
FOR AN INDETERMINATE STRETCH.
THANK THE LORD, HE'LL BE
THERE LONG ENOUGH
TO GIVE ALL OF US
A BIT OF SAFETY...

FLASH!
ALONZO
BAGBY, THE
CHILD MENACE,
HAS JUST ESCAPED
MYSTERIOUSLY
FROM THE STATE
REFORMATORY.
WITNESSES SWEAR
THAT HE ACTUALLY
DISAPPEARED BEFORE
THEIR EYES, SAYING
HE HAD A JOB OF
REVENGE TO
DO...



... AND THAT THE PARTY
HE'S AFTER DOESN'T
STAND A GHOST
OF A CHANCE!

THAT'S M-ME...
AND IF YOU DON'T
MIND MY SAYING IT,
I'M SCARED!

YOU'VE GOT REASON TO BE SCARED,
NEMESIS! AND AS FOR YOU, READER... IF
IT'S A TENSE, SPINE-CHILLING STORY YOU'RE
AFTER, TRY HOLDING YOUR BREATH TILL AN
EARLY ISSUE, WHEN ALONZO BAGBY'S REVENGE
EXPLODES AN INCREDIBLE SURPRISE!

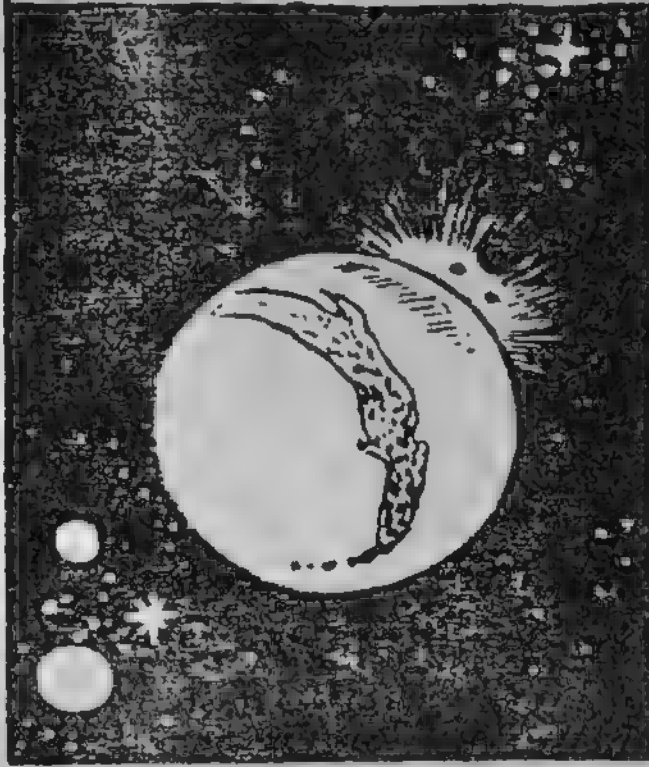
THE HIDDEN FACE



**SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST
UNIVERSE, A GALECTIC
EXPLOSION TAKES PLACE!!**



**AND OUT OF THE CARNAGE
AND THE CHAOS, A NEW
PLANET IS FORMED!**



**AS THE COUNTLESS CENTU-
RIES FLY BY, LIFE EVOLVES
ON THE NEW WORLD... IN-
TELLIGENT, HUMAN TYPE
LIFE...**



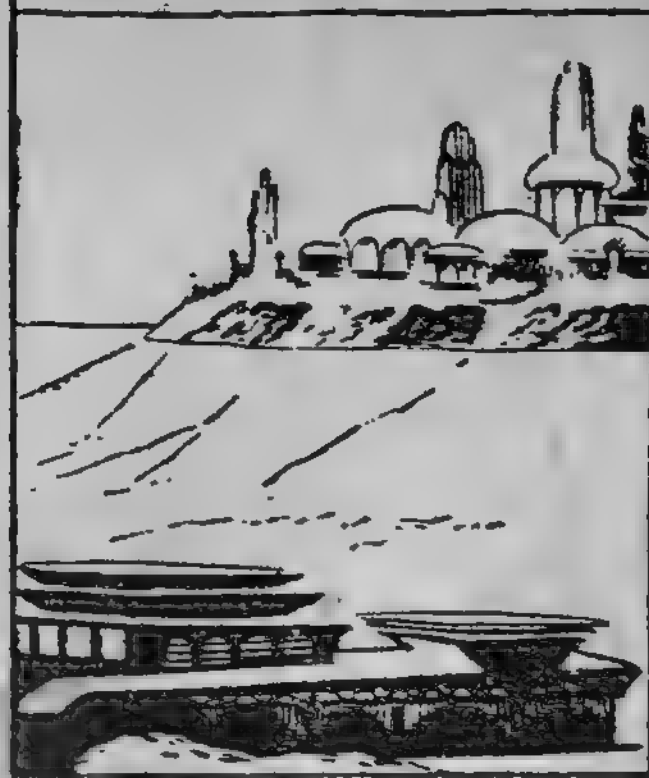
**BUT EVOLUTION IS A STRANGE
FORCE... SOME OF THE
LIVING CREATURES TAKE TO
THE SEA...**



**...WHILE OTHERS CHOSE TO
DWELL ON LAND!**



**AND THUS, TWO DIFFERENT
CULTURES SHARE DOMINION
OVER THE YOUNG PLANET!**



**BUT THE LAND DWELLERS AND
THE SEA PEOPLE LIVE IN
PEACE, FRIENDSHIP, AND
COMMON TRUST...**



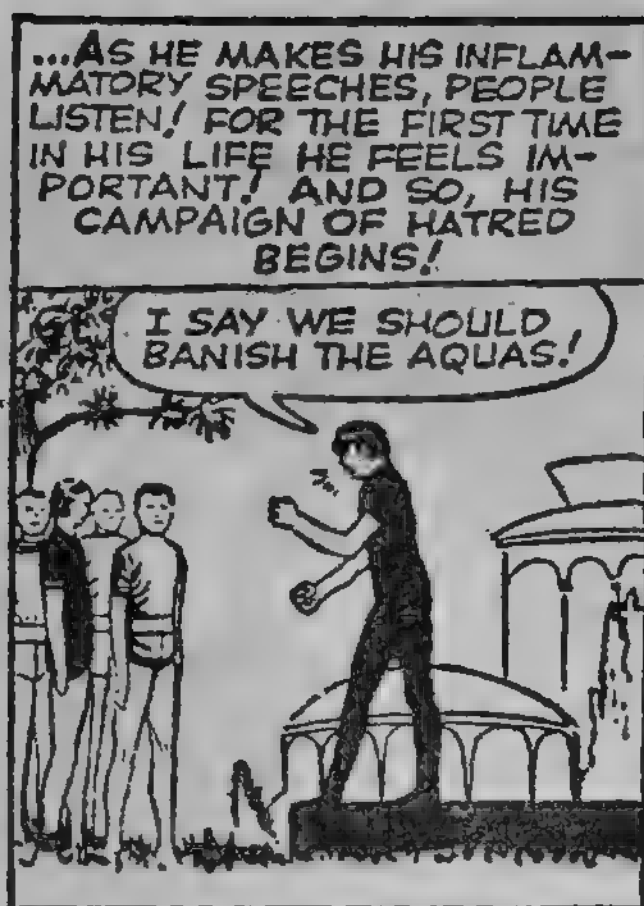
**...UNTIL THE BLACK DAY WHEN
A HATEFUL REMARK IS
FIRST UTTERED...**



**BECAUSE
WE ARE
THE
SUPERIOR
RACE!**

**THE INFERIOR
AQUAS HAVE
NO RIGHT TO
SHARE OUR
SURFACE
WORLD!**







ONCE I GET RID OF MY HOOD, I'LL BE SAFE! NONE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE IT WAS I WHO STRUCK THE AQUA!

MEANWHILE...

THIS IS THE FIRST ACT OF VIOLENCE IN YEARS!

THE CULPRIT MUST BE CAPTURED!

HAH! I'M ALONE IN MY ROOM WITH THE DOOR LOCKED! ALL I NEED DO NOW IS DESTROY THIS INCRIMINATING HOOD!



THERE! IT IS OFF!

WHA-?? ANOTHER IS UNDERNEATH!

...AND ANOTHER UNDER THAT!!

AND ANOTHER! AND ANOTHER!

THIS IS MADNESS!

IS THERE NO END?? THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON! I'VE GOT TO DESTROY THE HOODS! SOBE I'VE GOT TO!



STRANGE! HE SITS THERE AND MOTIONS WITH HIS HANDS... AS THOUGH REMOVING SOMETHING FROM HIS HEAD! BUT THERE IS NOTHING THERE!

YOU'D NEVER HAVE CAUGHT ME IF NOT FOR THOSE ACCURSED HOODS! NEVER!

AND SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST UNIVERSE, ON A FAR, FAR DISTANT PLANET, THE ONE CALLED WOGU STILL IS SITTING... STILL IS TRYING TO REMOVE HIS IMAGINARY HOODS!

POOR WOGU!

YOU SEE, LIKE ALL THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH HATE, HE IS QUITE COMPLETELY MAD!



MASON EXPECTED THE PEOPLE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN PRIMITIVE SAVAGES. AND COMPARED TO H.M. THEY WERE! BUT THAT WASN'T NECESSARILY TO HIS ADVANTAGE!

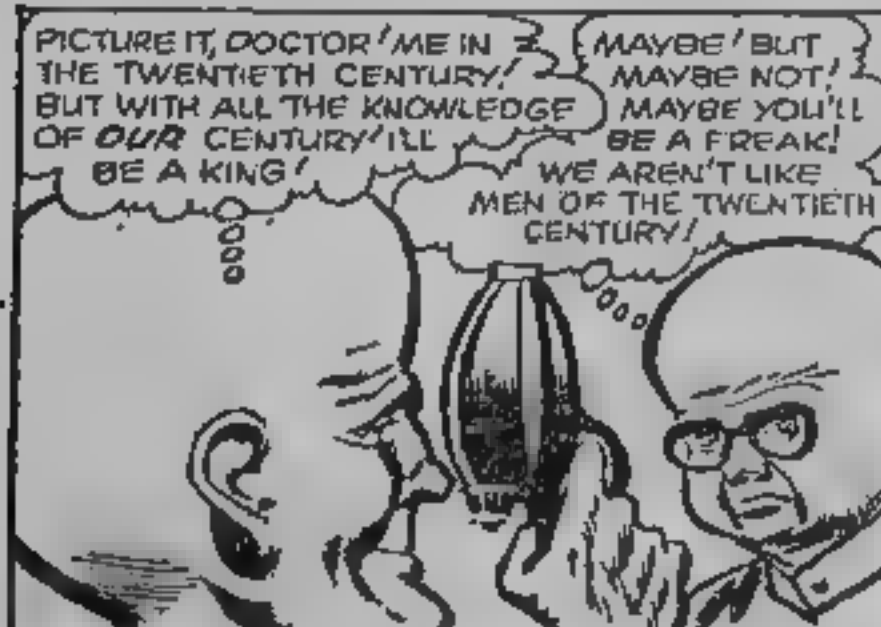
the SINKING MAN!



YOU'RE MASON! I'VE SEEN YOUR FACE ON THE VIS-SCREEN! THE POLICE WANT YOU! BUT WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING IS INSANE!

SAVE YOUR WARNINGS, DOCTOR! I CAME HERE BECAUSE THE POLICE ARE RIGHT BEHIND ME! BUT WITH THAT LITTLE DEVICE OF YOURS I CAN ESCAPE! INTO THE PAST!

SMILING, MASON BEAMED HIS THOUGHTS AT THE DOCTOR! COMING HERE HAD BEEN SHEER INSPIRATION! IT WAS ALL SO SIMPLE...



PICTURE IT, DOCTOR! ME IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY! BUT WITH ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CENTURY I'LL BE A KING!

MAYBE! BUT MAYBE NOT! MAYBE YOU'LL BE A FREAK! WE AREN'T LIKE MEN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!

DON'T YOU SEE? LOOK AT US! OUR BODIES HAVE CHANGED! WE CAN COMMUNICATE MENTALLY!

EXACTLY! OUR MINDS HAVE DEVELOPED! WHICH MEANS THAT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL ANYONE I MEET!





I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME! GET OUT OF MY WAY!

NO! YOU MIGHT DO TERRIBLE HARM IF YOU ENTER THE PAST! THAT'S WHY TIME TRAVEL IS FORBIDDEN! MY INVENTION IS JUST AN EXPERIMENT!



I CAN'T LET YOU DO WHAT YOU PLAN!



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?



MASON - DON'T! FOR YOUR OWN SAKE!

STILL TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME, DOCTOR? DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT BIG A FOOL?

NO, MASON WAS NOT A FOOL! THERE WERE NO LOOPHOLES IN HIS PLAN! HE WAS CERTAIN! SO, CALMLY, HE SET THE DIALS ON THE DOCTOR'S DEVICE.



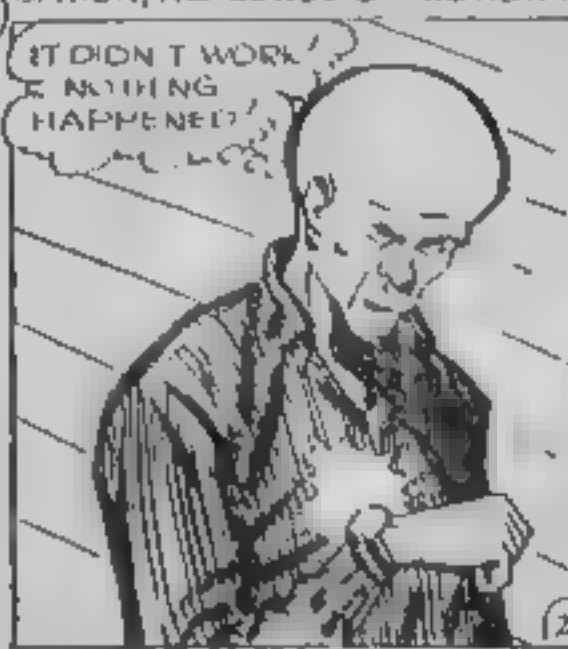
THERE! YOUR MACHINE IS QUITE HANDY, DOCTOR! MY CONGRATULATIONS! NOW IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD BYE!

NO! MASON, LISTEN TO ME!



I HAVE NO MORE TIME FOR LISTENING, DOCTOR! I'LL THINK OF YOU SOMETIME IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!

ALMOST, IN THAT FIRST INSTANT, MASON WAS DISAPPOINTED! NOTHING STRANGE HAPPENED! THERE WAS NO PHYSICAL SENSATION, NO SENSE OF MOTION.



IT DIDN'T WORK! NOTHING HAPPENED!

MASON NEVER NOTICED THAT HIS SURROUNDINGS
DIMMED AND THEN VANISHED NOT UNTIL SUDDENLY,
THE LABORATORY WAS GONE



SOMEHOW, MASON FOUGHT DOWN HIS DIS-
MAY. HIS THOUGHT BEAM LASHED OUT AT THE
PRIMITIVE MEN, BUT THAT WAS WHEN THE
PANIC DID COME...



MASON'S MOUTH OPENED IN AN
ANCIENT INSTINCT, HE TRIED TO
SCREAM, BUT IT WAS NO USE.

BITTERLY WRACKED BY GREAT
SOBS, MASON REACHED FOR
HIS WRIST AND REACTIVATED
THE TIME CONTROL.

THEY'RE GONE! I'VE ONLY GOT
ONE CHANCE! I'LL HAVE TO GO
BACK! BACK TO MY OWN TIME!
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY
CHANCES!

THIS WAS WHAT THE DOCTOR
MEANT! HE SAID I WOULD
BE DEFEATED BY THE VERY
THING THAT I THOUGHT WOULD
MAKE ME A KING IN THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY!



ONCE AGAIN, MASON'S SURROUNDINGS VANISHED, BUT
THIS TIME, WHEN HE REACHED HIS DESTINATION, HE WAS
EXPECTED.

BUT HOW COULD I HAVE SHOUTED?
WHAT GOOD ARE VOCAL CORDS TO MEN
WHO COMMUNICATE MENTALLY? IF ONLY I'D
REMEMBERED THAT WE LOST
THE USE OF OUR VOCAL CORDS
A THOUSAND
YEARS
AGO!



EVERYBODY INCLUDING THE FRIGHTENED FATHER OF A VICIOUS MOB CAME TO SEE JESSICA'S JUNGLE! AND THEN, WHAT HAD BEEN AN AMAZING EXHIBIT OF GARGANTUAN GORILLAS BECAME KNOWN TO THE HUNTED HOODLUM AS THE

HIDEOUS HIDE-OUT



JESSICA TURNER HERSELF WAS AS SURPRISING AS HER EXHIBIT! NOBODY WOULD'VE ASSOCIATED THE MOTHERLY-LOOKING LADY WITH A SHOW OF BRUTISH APES...

I BROUGHT MY SON ALONG THIS TIME, JESSICA!

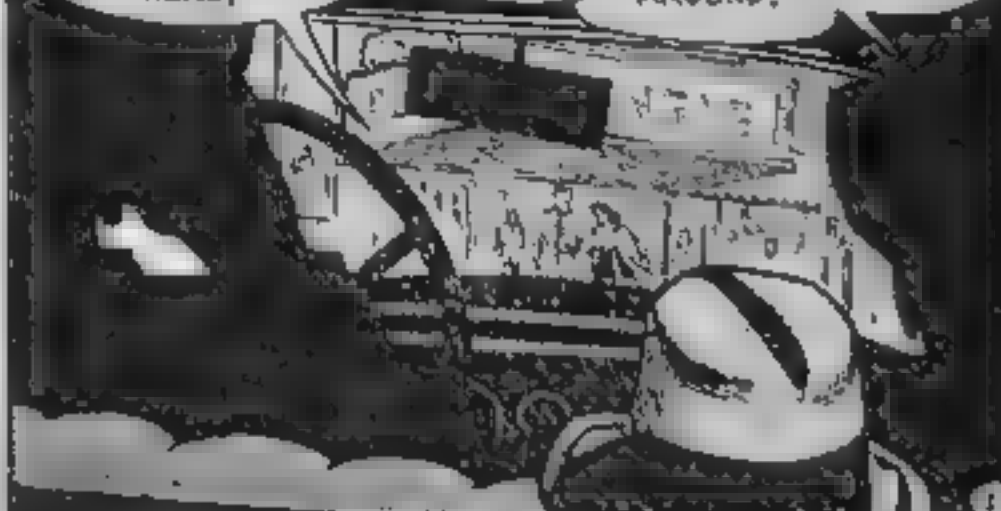
GO RIGHT IN, JOE! YOUR FAMILY'S WELCOME 'N FREE ANY TIME! YOUR NEWSPAPER PICTURES AND STORIES ABOUT ME AND MY EXHIBIT HAVE MADE MY BUSINESS BOOM!



IT WAS THE NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY THAT BROUGHT ROCKY LARSEN AND HIS GANG, THAT NIGHT, TO JESSICA'S JUNGLE ..

HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO WAIT? I'M GETTIN' CRAMPED UP LYIN' ON THE FLOOR HERE!

IT'S BETTER THAN BEIN' CRAMPED UP IN A PRISON CELL FOR TWENTY YEARS, ROCKY! WE CAN'T GO 'N THERE UNTIL THERE ARE NO WITNESSES AROUND!



MOB LEADER ROCKY LARSEN FACED A DISTURBING DILEMMA...

HIDIN' OUT IN THAT PHONY JUNGLE SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME, BUT NOW IT'S GOT ME SCARED, MONK!

IT WAS YOUR IDEA! ME, ARTIE AND NICK LIKE IT! IF YOU HADN'T LET THE WATCHMAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU WHEN WE PULLED THAT JOB, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS SPOT!



YOU GUYS KNOW I WOULDN'T SQUEAL! I'LL LEAVE TOWN!

WE KNOW ANYBODY MIGHT TALK TO GET HIS SENTENCE CUT BY MAYBE TEN YEARS! AND WE KNOW EVERY WAY OUT OF TOWN IS BEIN' WATCHED! YEAH, AND THE POLICE ARE MAKIN' A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR YOU, ROCKY!



BECAUSE OF THE CERTAINTY OF ROCKY LARSEN'S CAPTURE, THE DESPERATE MOBSTERS WAITED TILL CLOSING TIME BEFORE HURRYING INTO THE EXHIBIT HALL...

OH! I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE! PERHAPS TOMORROW NIGHT...?

TOMORROW NIGHT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR WHAT WE WANT, LADY!



MONK MORAN EXPLAINED THEIR PREDICAMENT TO JESSICA TURNER...

WELL, OF ALL THE NERVE! I WON'T TURN MY JUNGLE INTO A HIDE-OUT FOR A WANTED CRIMINAL! AND BESIDES IT'S TOO COLD IN THERE... SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES!



WE KNOW HOW COLD IT IS, LADY! COLD ENOUGH TO KEEP THE BOSS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION TILL THE HEAT'S OFF! WE KNOW IT'LL WORK... WE READ ABOUT IT!

YOU CAN GO FIND YOURSELVES SOME OTHER ICEBOX TO HIDE ROCKY LARSEN IN!

WE'RE NOT ASKIN' YOU, LADY...WE'RE TELLIN' YOU! GET OVER TO THAT DOOR AND LET ROCKY IN THERE, OR...



JESSICA HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DO AS SHE WAS ORDERED! ROCKY LARSEN HESITATED AS SHE OPENED THE DOOR AND A FRIGID BLAST OF AIR GREETED HIM...

PLEASE HURRY IN THERE OR YOU'LL RUIN MY EXHIBIT!

GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU TELL THE POLICE ABOUT THIS AND WE'LL GET YOU BEFORE THEY CAN GET US!



EVEN BEFORE LARSEN COULD LIE DOWN IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION, HE WAS QUICK-FROZEN, HELD IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!



DESPITE THE GANGSTERS' WARNING, JESSICA WAS DETERMINED TO TELL THE POLICE ABOUT THE NEW, IF UNSEEN, ADDITION TO HER EXHIBIT! SHE TRIED TO PHONE THE POLICE FROM HER HOME...

HELLO, IS THIS POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS? I HAVE SOME INFORMATION...

NO, LADY, THIS AIN'T THE POLICE! IT'S ONE OF ROCKY LARSEN'S BOYS! WE'VE GOT YOUR LINE TAPPED!



I TOLD YOU WE'D BE WATCHIN'! DON'T TRY... (CLICK!)



THEY WON'T STOP ME! I'LL FIND SOME WAY OF REACHING THE POLICE!

SHE TRIED PHONING FROM A PAY STATION IN A DRUGSTORE...

SEVENTH PRECINCT! SERGEANT FITZSIMMONS!

OH... I... I'M SORRY, I MUST'VE DIALED THE WRONG NUMBER!



JESSICA TRIED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO GET OTHERS TO TAKE HER MESSAGE TO THE POLICE...

YOU STARTED TO TELL ME SOMETHING, JESSICA! WHAT IS IT?

IT'S NOTHING, JOE! I... UM... WAS JUST GOING TO ASK WHERE YOUR SON IS!



EVEN A DISGUISE FAILED TO HIDE HER FROM THE EVER-WATCHFUL MOB...

I SAW YOU SNEAK OUT OF THE BACK DOOR OF YOUR HOUSE, LADY! WISE UP! WHAT YOU'RE TRYIN' TO DO AIN'T HEALTHY!

IT'S NO USE! I'M SAFE ONLY AS LONG AS ROCKY LARSEN REMAINS IN THE GORILLA EXHIBIT!



THE THREE MOBSTERS WAITED THREE LONG MONTHS BEFORE MAKING UP THEIR MINDS TO RELEASE THEIR LEADER FROM HIS HIDE-OUT...

FOR MY PART, I'D LET ROCKY STAY IN THERE FOREVER, BUT HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE KEY IS TO THE VAULT WHERE THE LOOT'S HIDDEN!

WELL, THE HEAT'S OFF, MONK! THE POLICE THINK ROCKY SKIPPED OUT OF THE COUNTRY! SO LET'S GO GET THIS OVER WITH!



WHAT DO YOU WANT? I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE POLICE...

YEAH, WE KNOW! WE'RE GOIN' TO TAKE YOUR PRIZE EXHIBIT OFF YOUR HANDS... START DEFROSTING THAT ICEBOX, LADY!





I'M AWARE OF THE SPOT I'M IN! YOU WON'T NEED ME AFTER LARSEN IS RELEASED FROM SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

SURE, LADY, YOU'RE DANGEROUS TO US...BUT MAYBE IF YOU BEHAVE, WE'LL JUST TAKE YOU AS FAR AS THE STATE BORDER WITH US!



YOU TRY ANY TRICKS AND WE'LL BE OUT OF THIS ICEBOX BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE TALKING! IT'S DEFROSTED ENOUGH NOW! GET IN THERE AND BRING HIM OUT BEFORE MY EXHIBIT IS RUINED!

JESSICA TURNER WAS DISTRESSED! HER EXHIBIT WAS ALMOST THOROUGHLY DEFROSTED...BUT ROCKY LARSEN WAS BEGINNING TO COME OUT OF IT...



A COUPLE OF MINUTES MORE! HE'S COMIN' AROUND...

SUDDENLY, THE MOBSTERS TURNED COLD... BUT NOT FROM REFRIGERATION...



THE GORILLAS... THEY'RE NOT STUFFED! THEY'RE ALIVE!

I NEVER SAID MY GORILLAS WERE STUFFED! THEY WERE QUICK-FROZEN!



I'D BETTER RE-FREEZE THE EXHIBIT BEFORE THOSE BRUTES GET IT INTO THEIR HEADS TO SMASH THROUGH THE GLASS!



SOME TIME LATER, THE POLICE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE...

I CALLED YOU AS SOON AS I SAW THE GORILLAS WERE QUICK-FROZEN AGAIN AND THE MEN WERE SAFE...I IMAGINE YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THEM?

THAT'S RIGHT, AND WE OWE YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE! I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO SPOIL YOUR SHOW, MA'AM, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THOSE HUMAN GORILLAS OUT OF YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND PUT THEM IN THE "COOLER" AT HEADQUARTERS!

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THIS SERIES**

AVAILABLE MONTHLY

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SUSPENSE

★

SINISTER TALES

★

CREEPY WORLDS

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SECRETS OF THE UNKNOWN

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UNCANNY TALES

★

ASTOUNDING STORIES

★

OUT OF THIS WORLD

★

WEIRD PLANETS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW